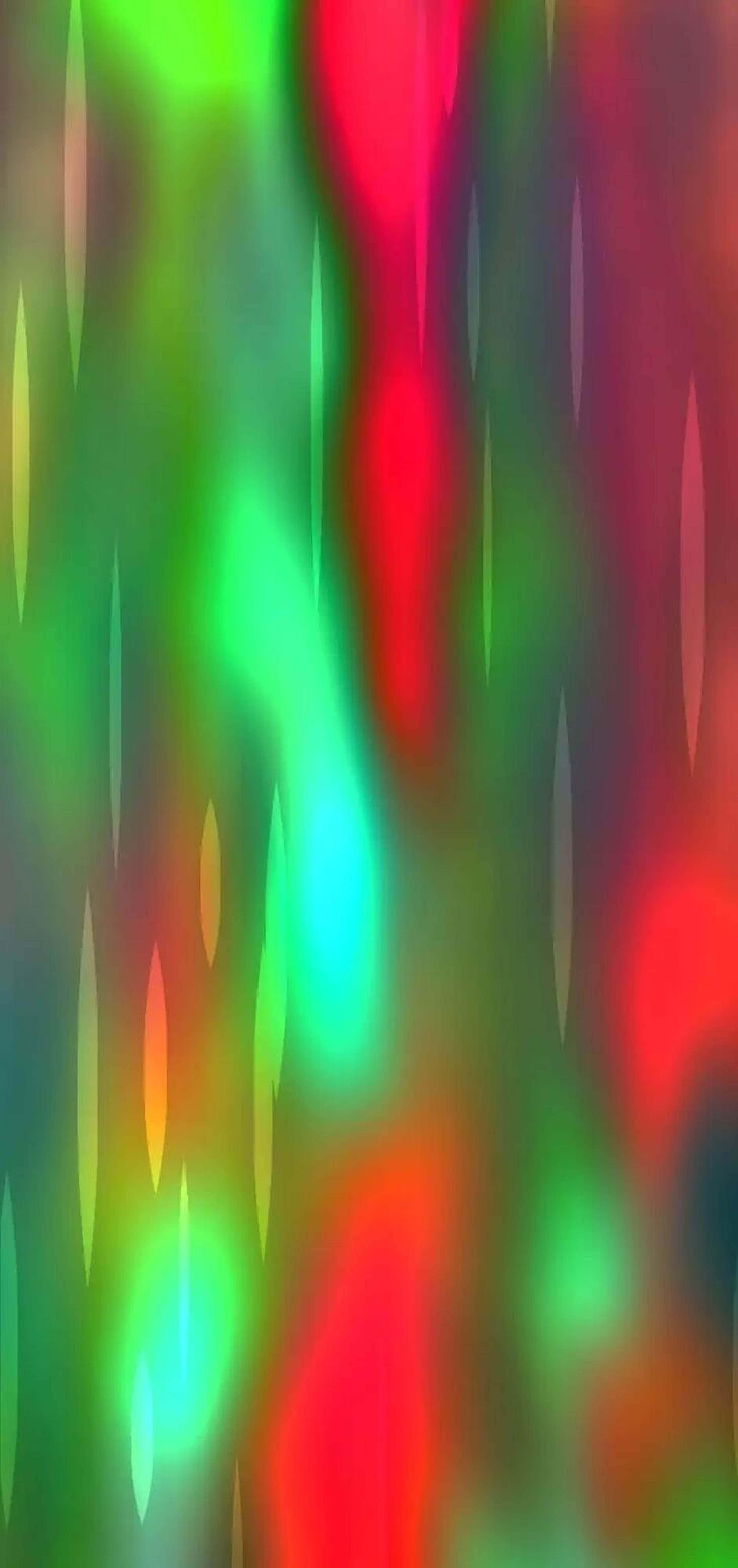
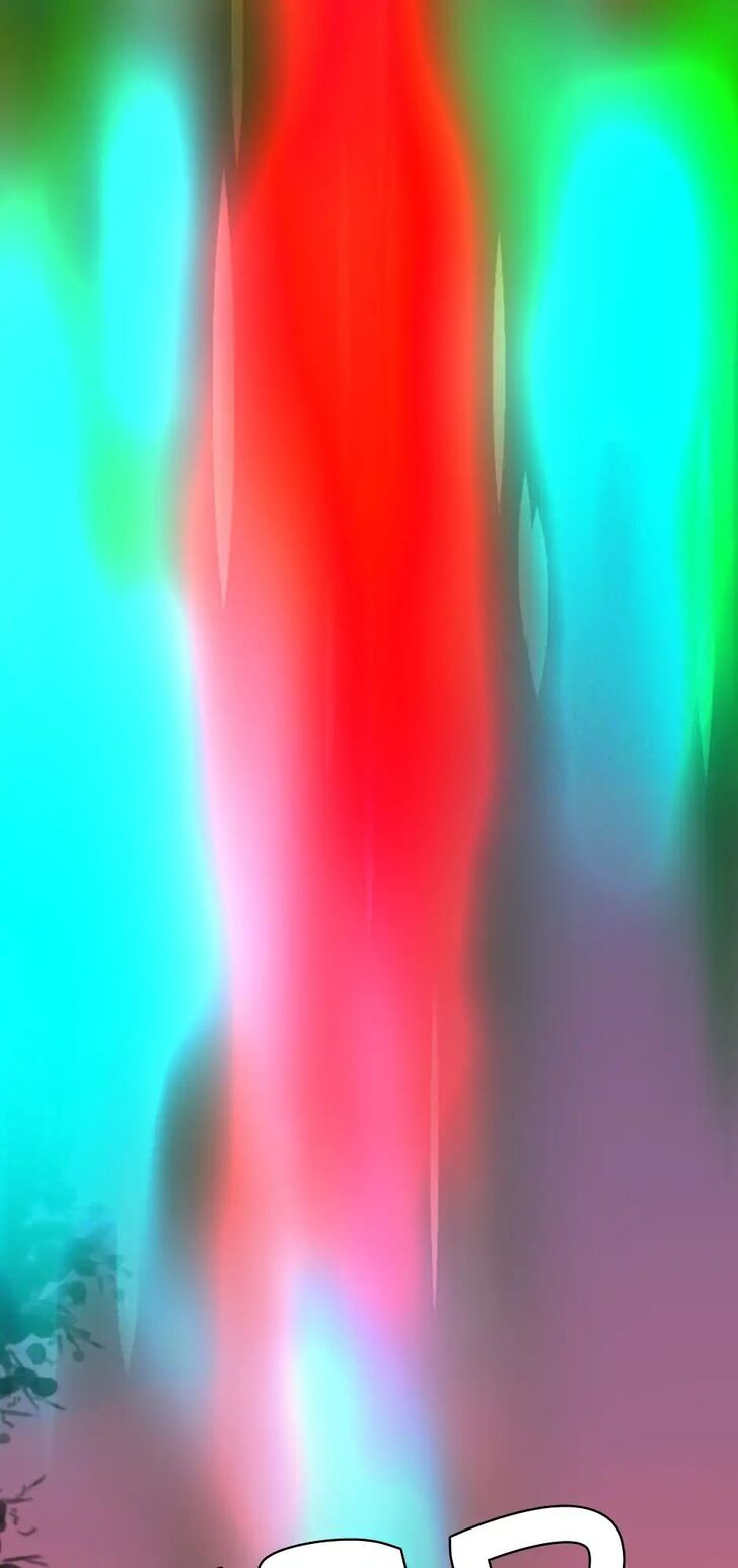
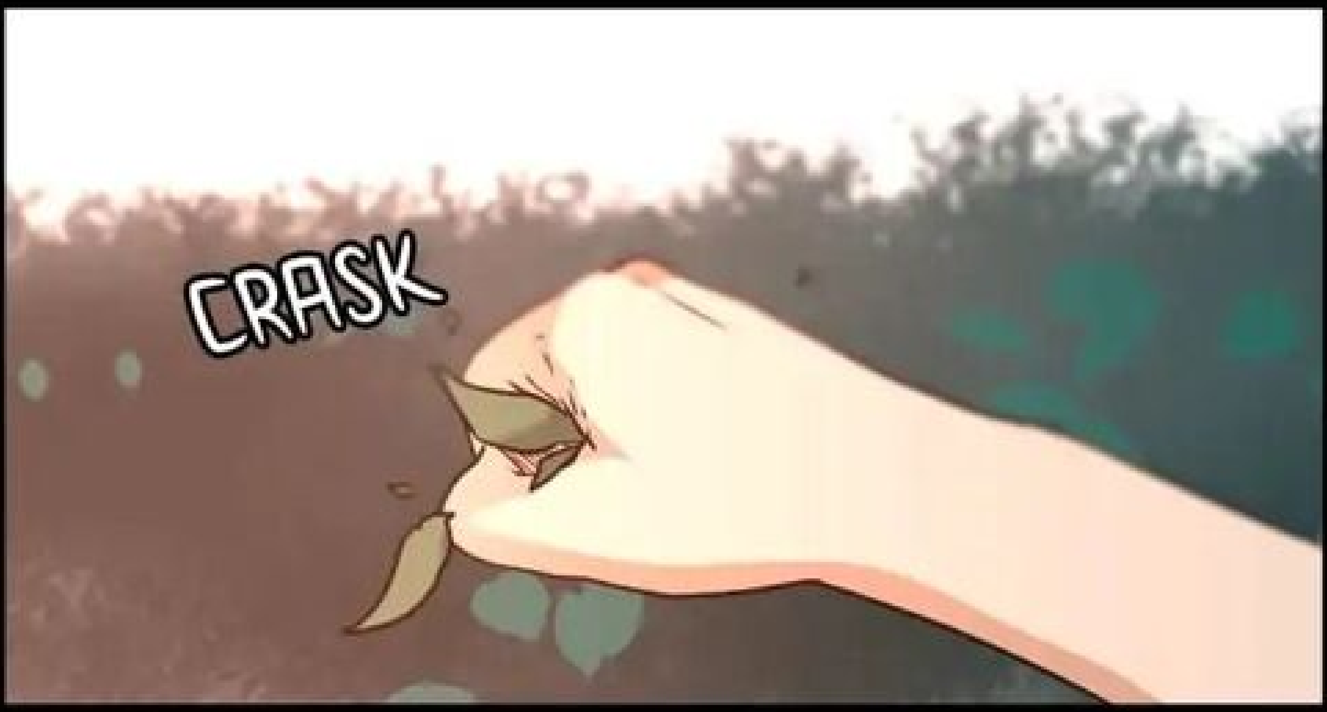




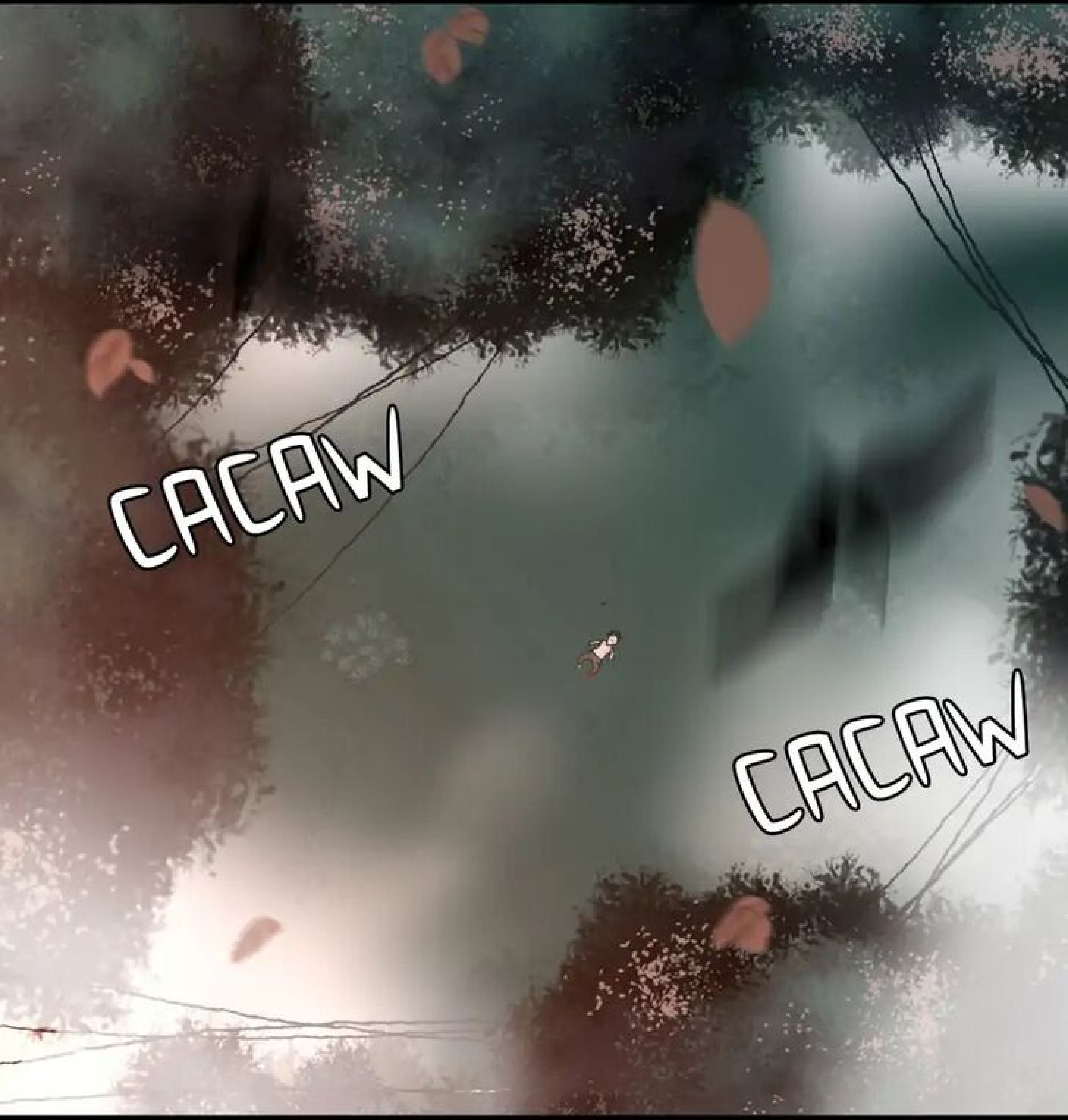
ZAP

CIRP
CIRP

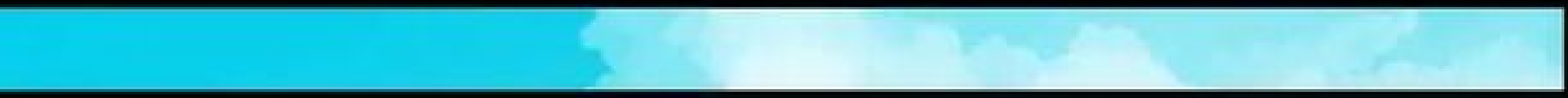
SHE'S
GONE.

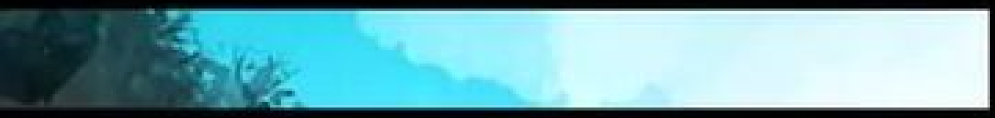

CRASK

I'LL NEVER
HAVE THE
CHANCE TO SEE
HER AGAIN.

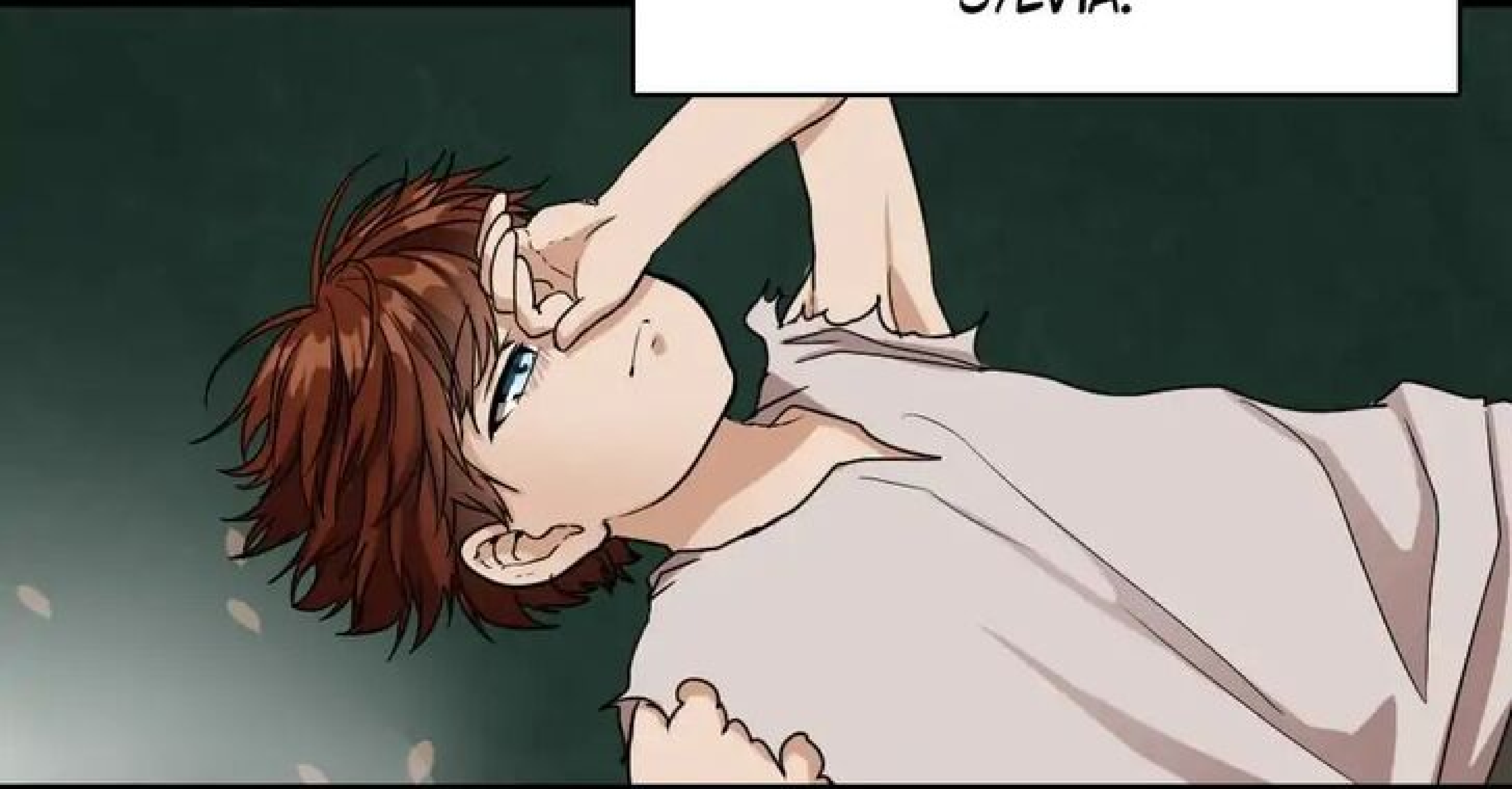

CACAW
CACAW

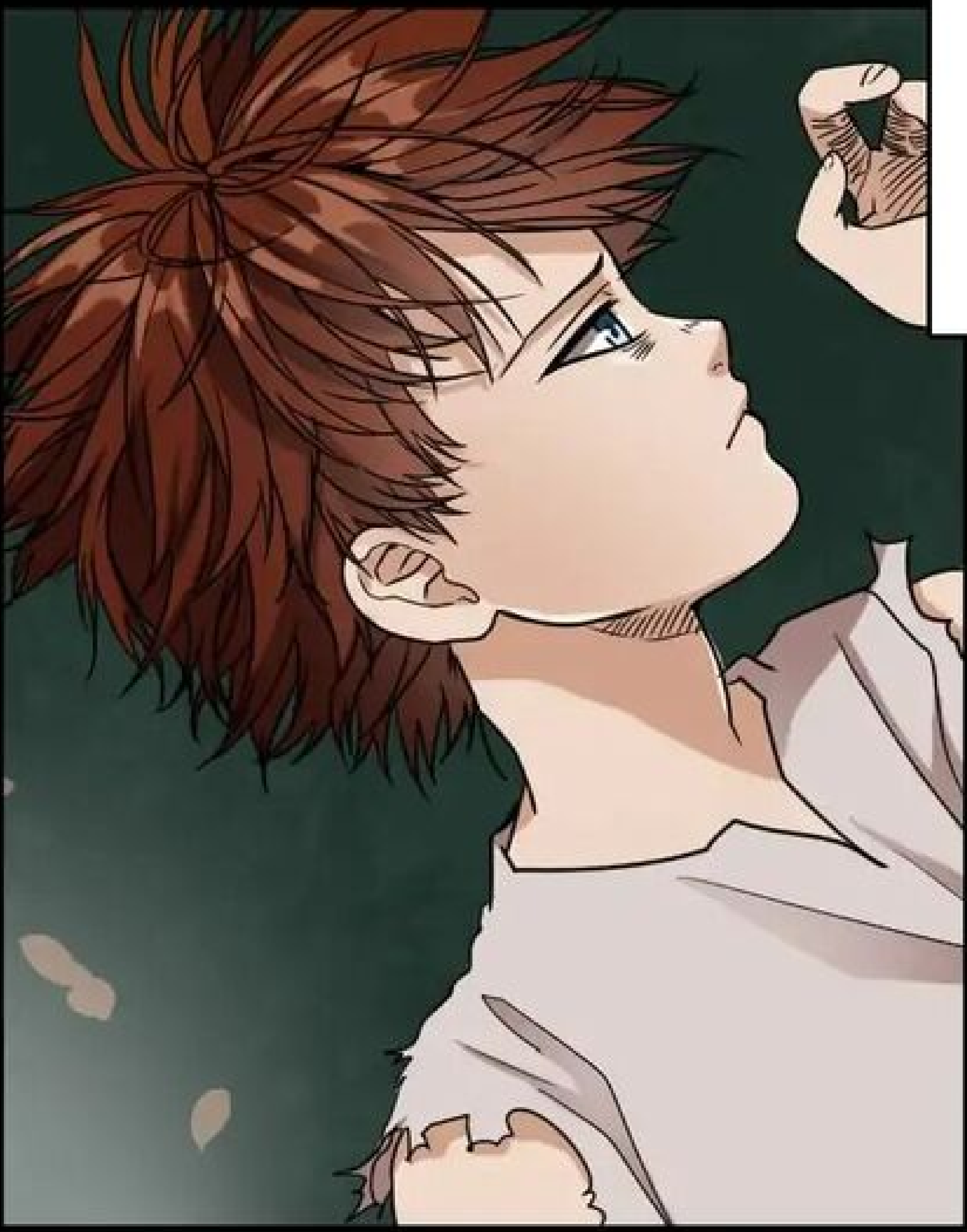
CACAW
CACAW

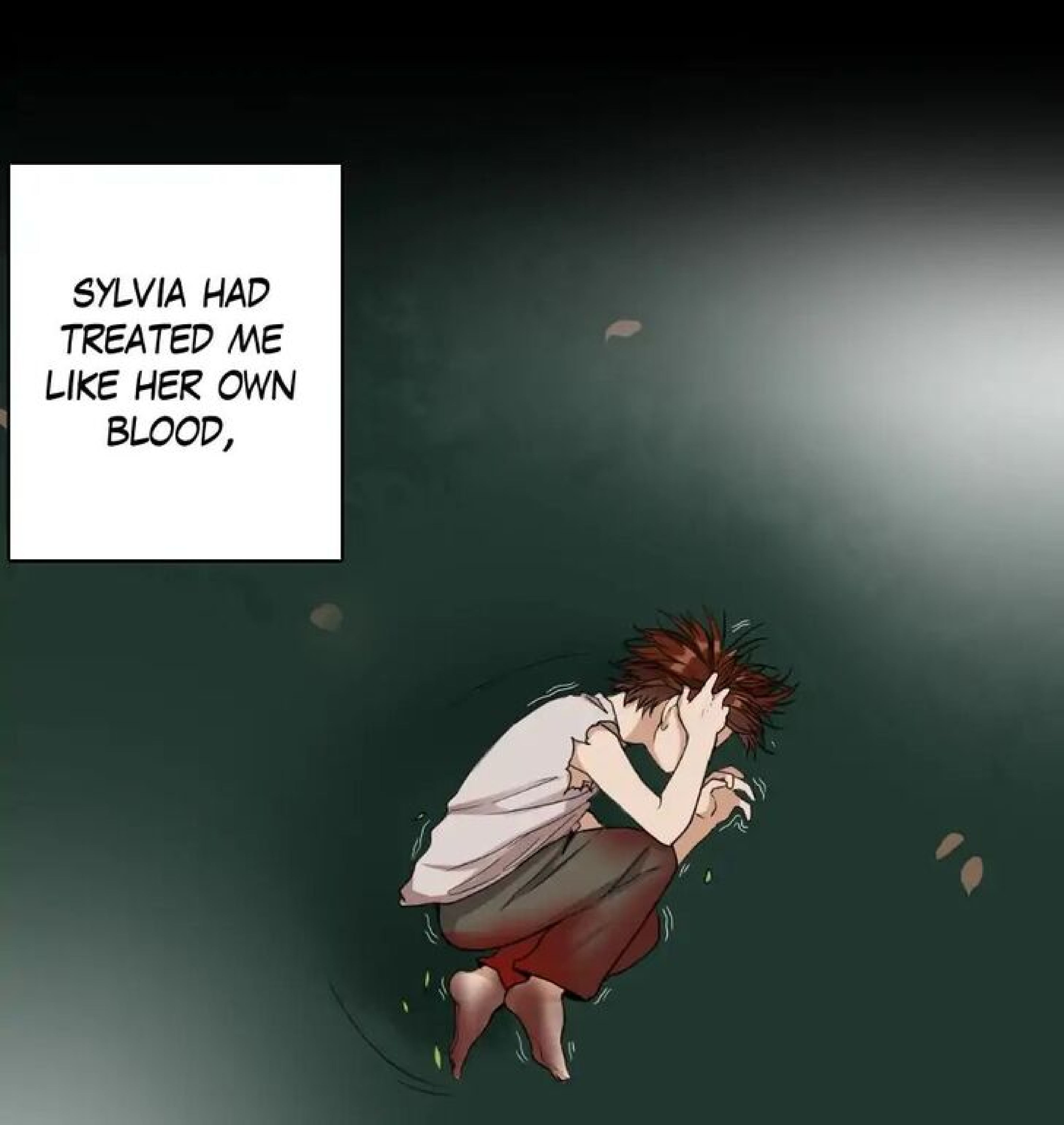


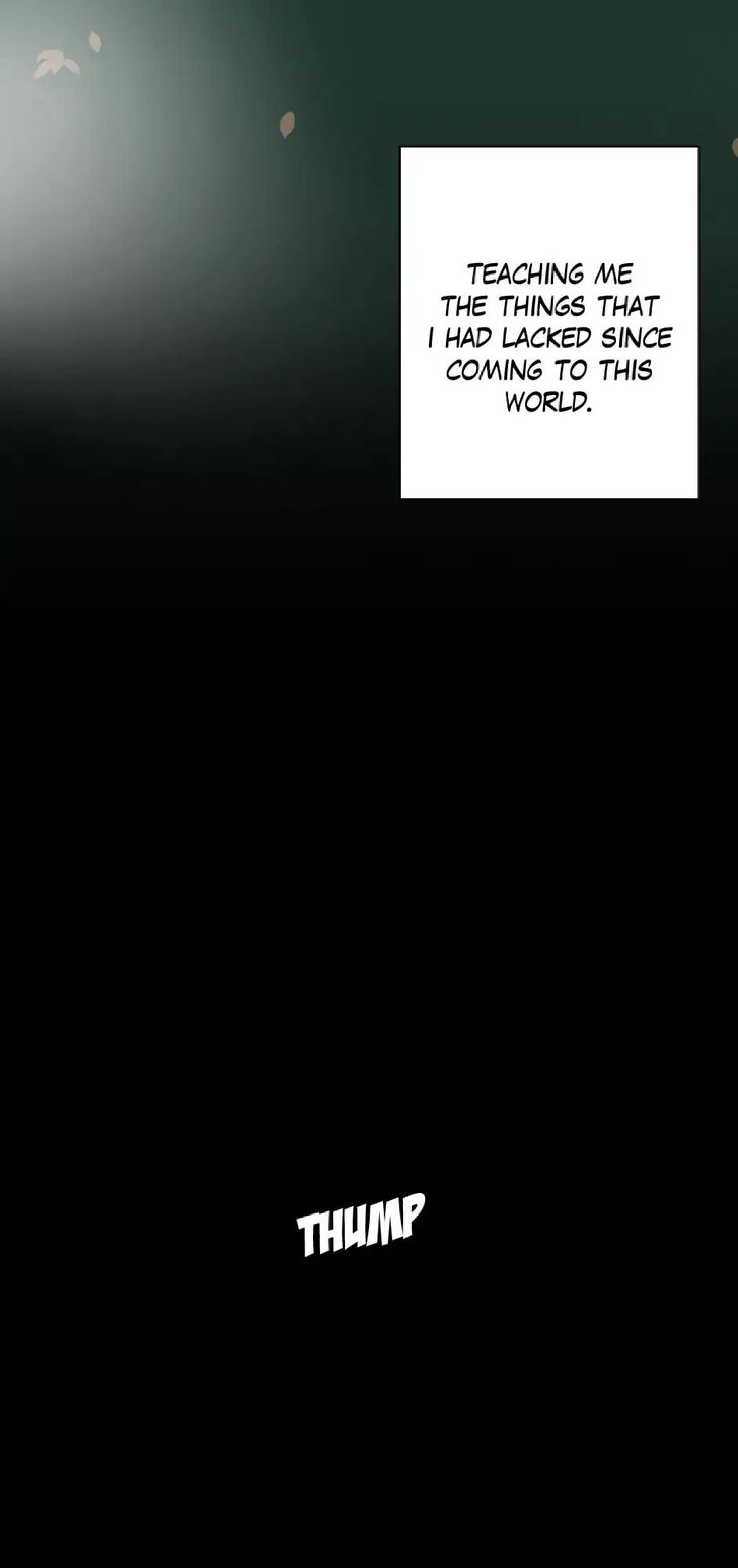


MY MIND
SWAM WITH MEMORIES
OF THE NEAR FOUR MONTHS
I HAD SPENT WITH
SYLVIA.



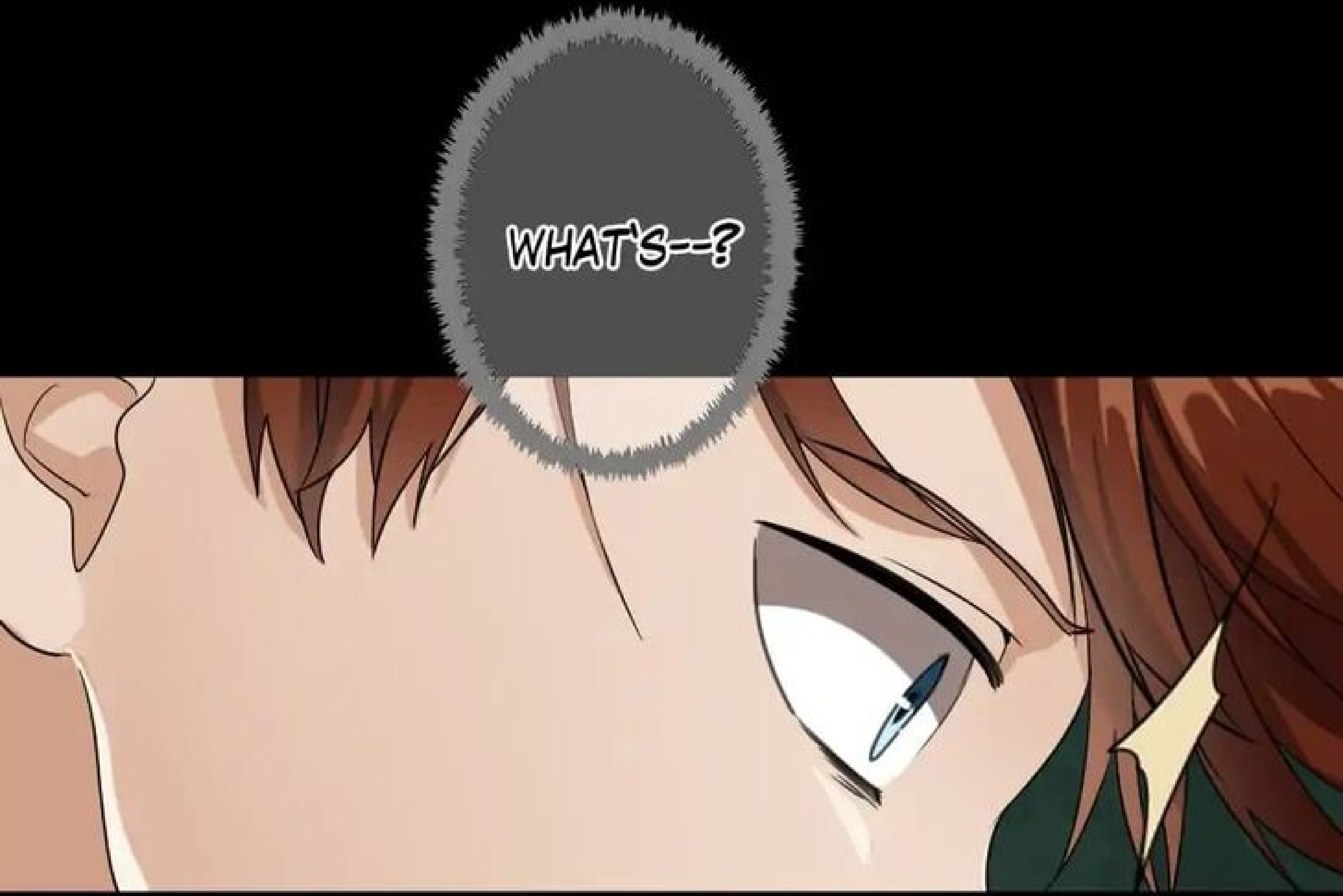

FOR A TIME THAT SEEMED BOTH LONG AND SHORT,


SYLVIA HAD TREATED ME LIKE HER OWN BLOOD,

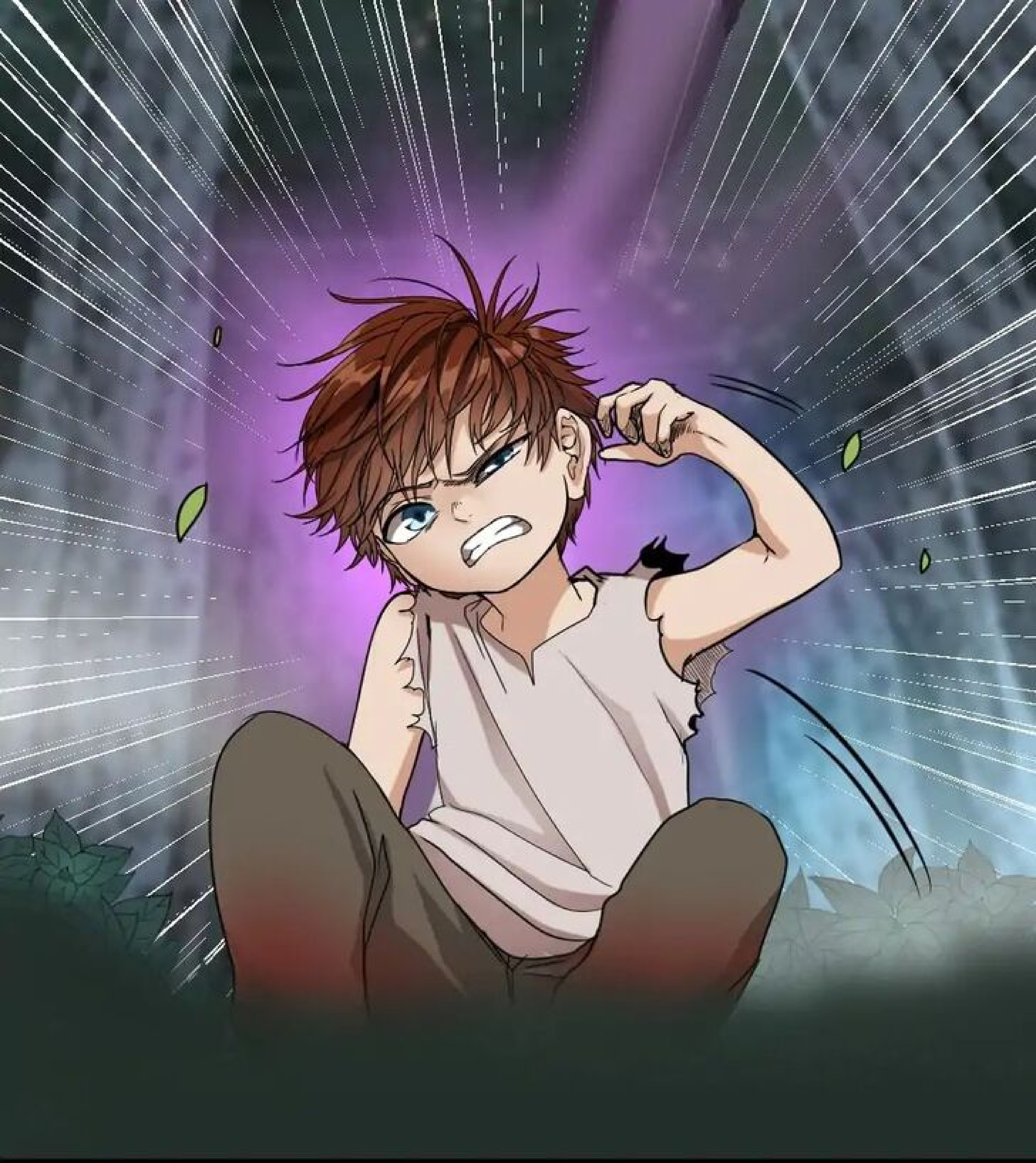

TEACHING ME THE THINGS THAT I HAD LACKED SINCE COMING TO THIS WORLD.
THUMP

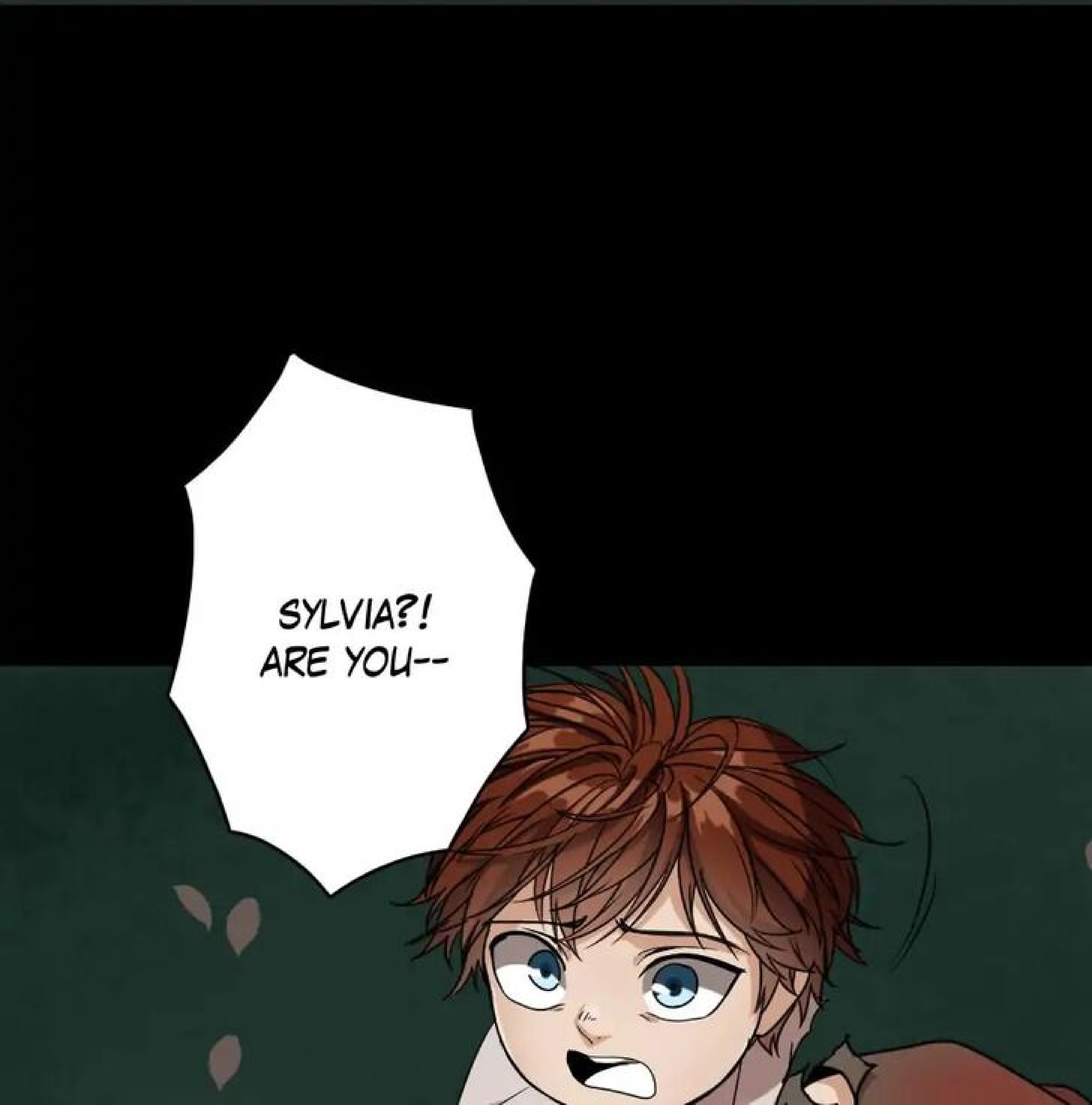
THUMP
THUMP

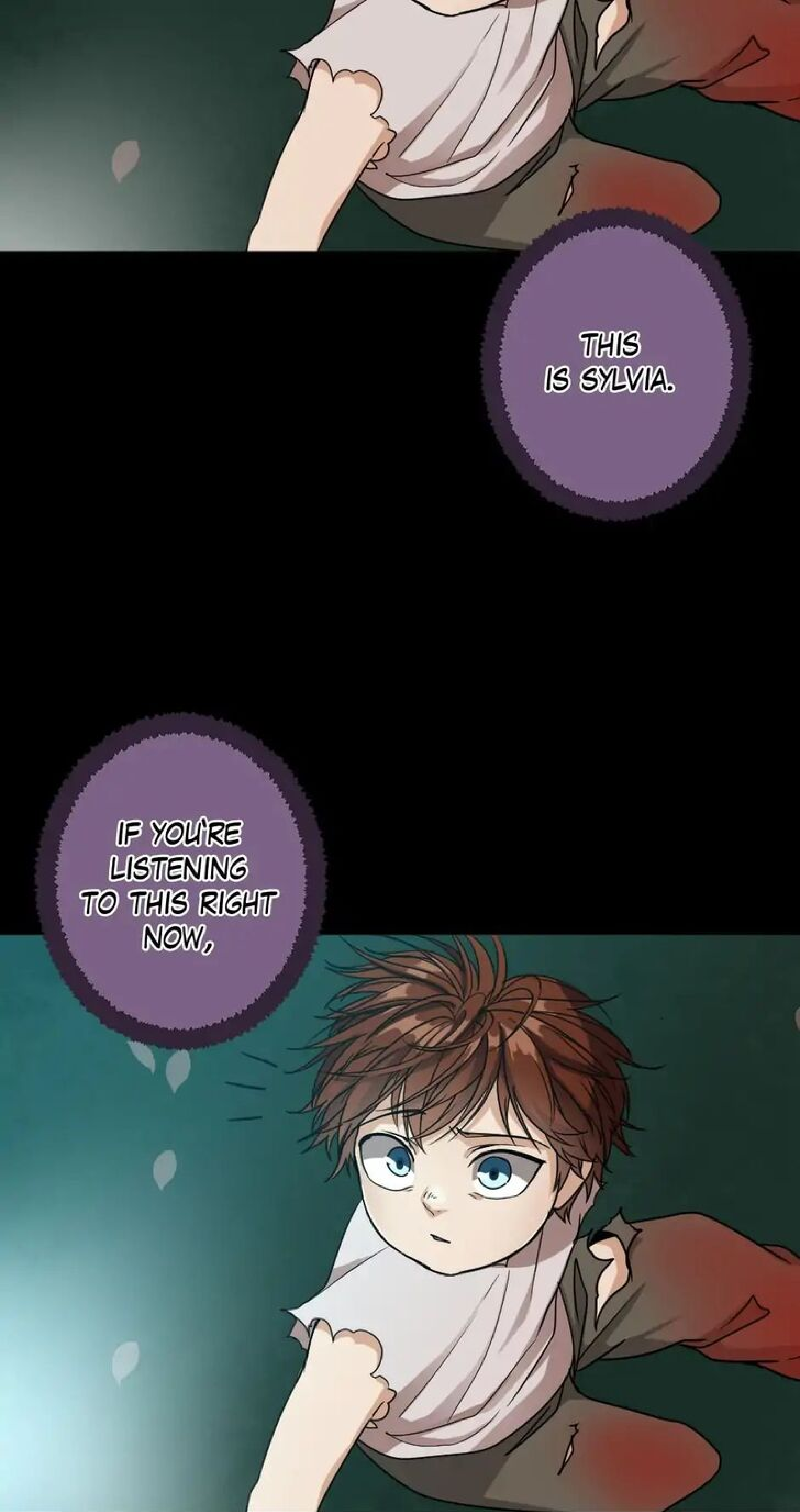
THUMP

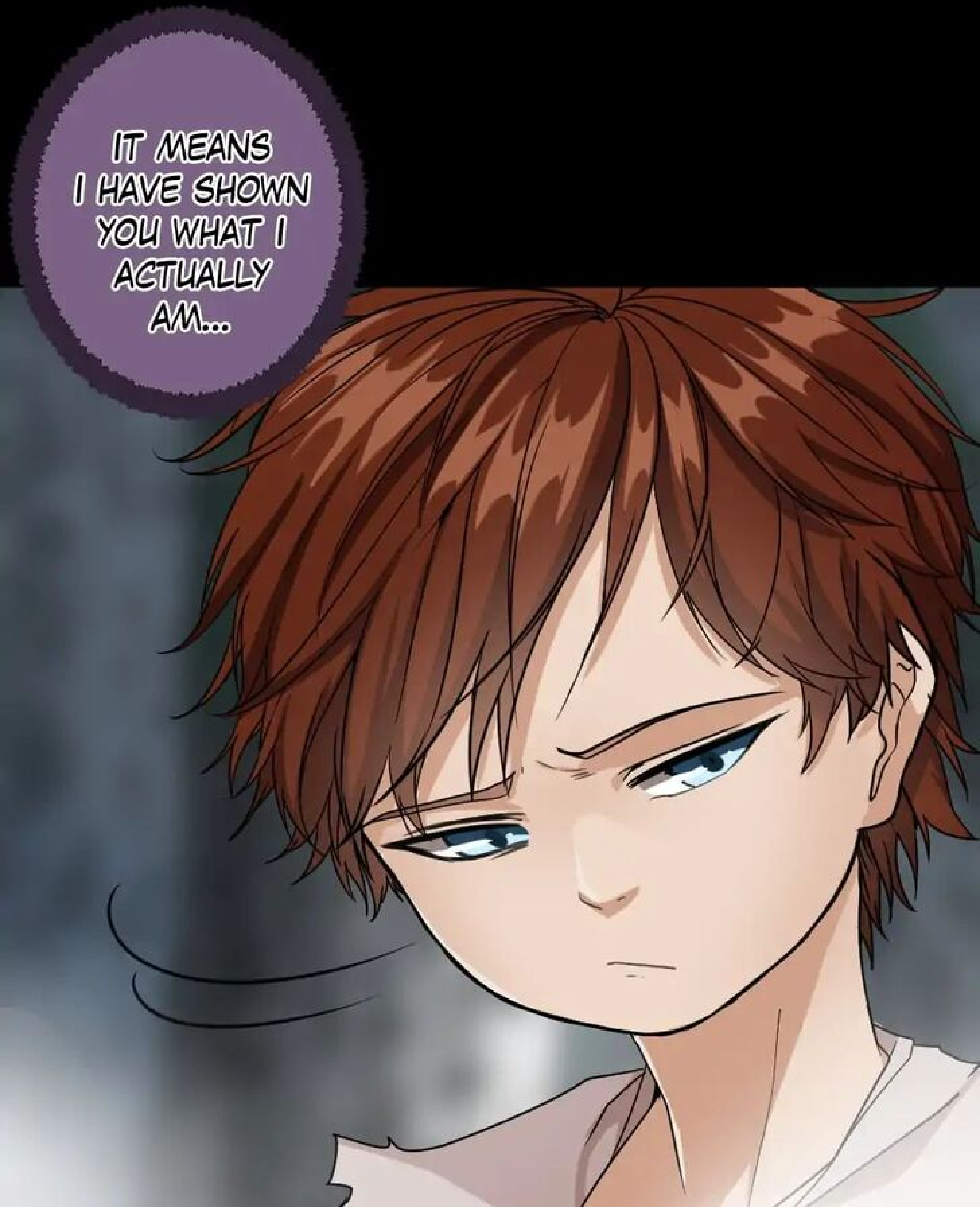

WHAT'S--?

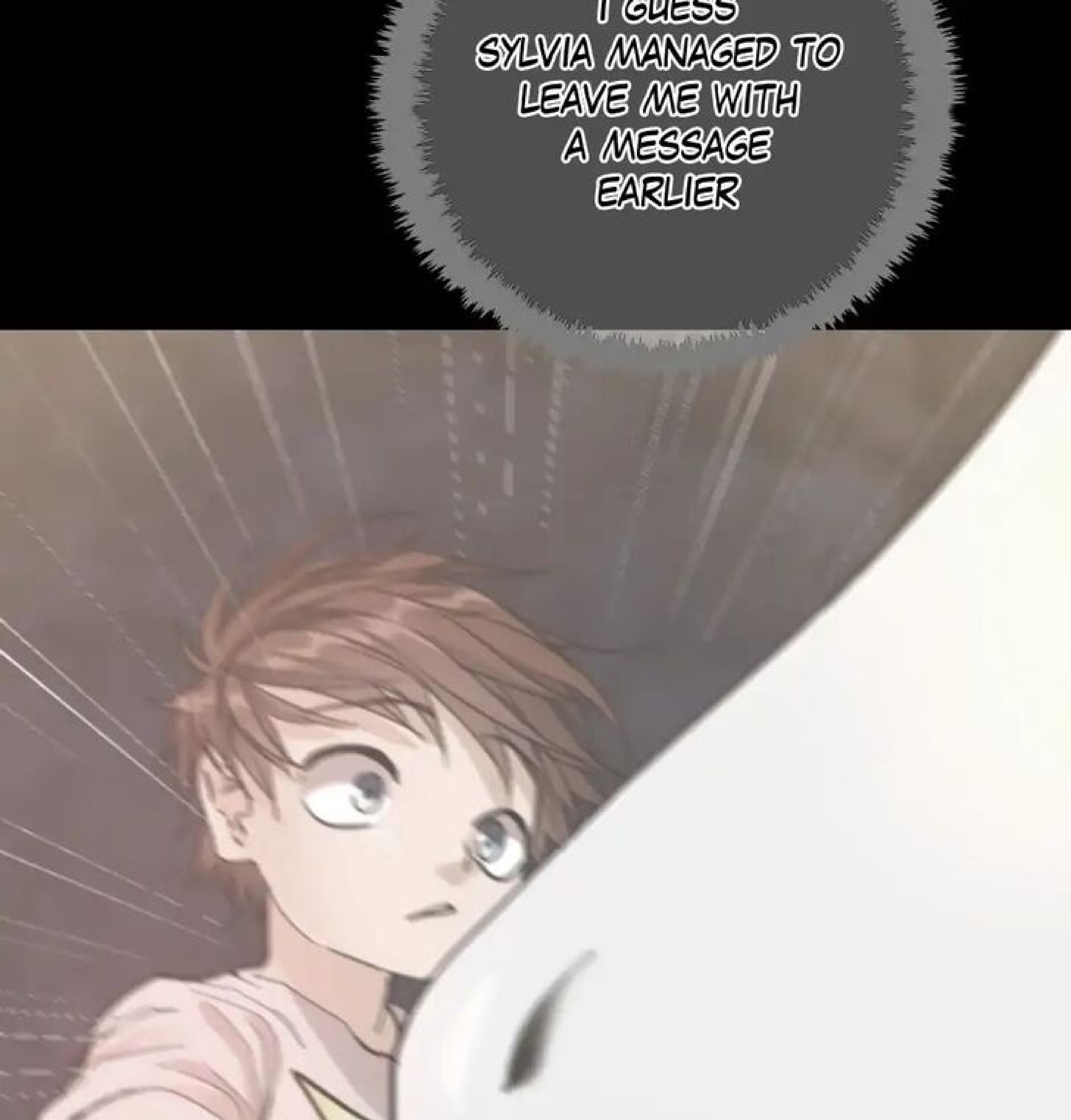
AHEM! TESTING, TESTING... AH, GOOD!
HELLO, ART.

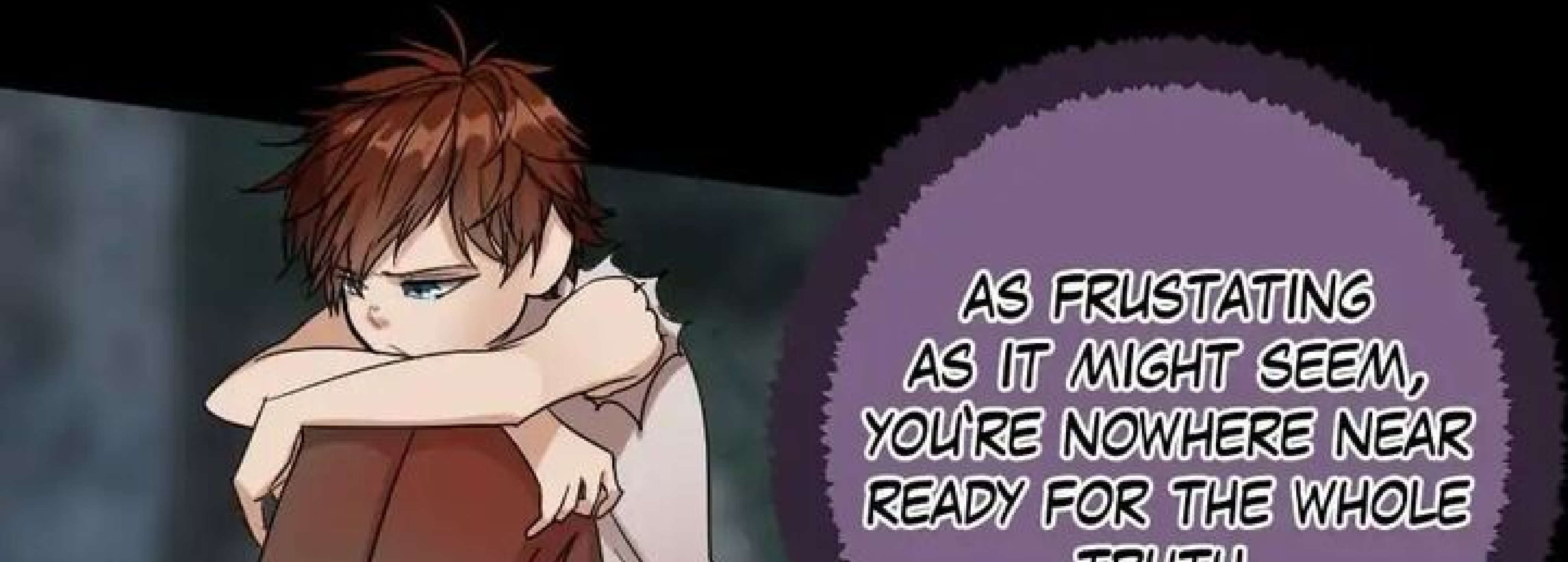


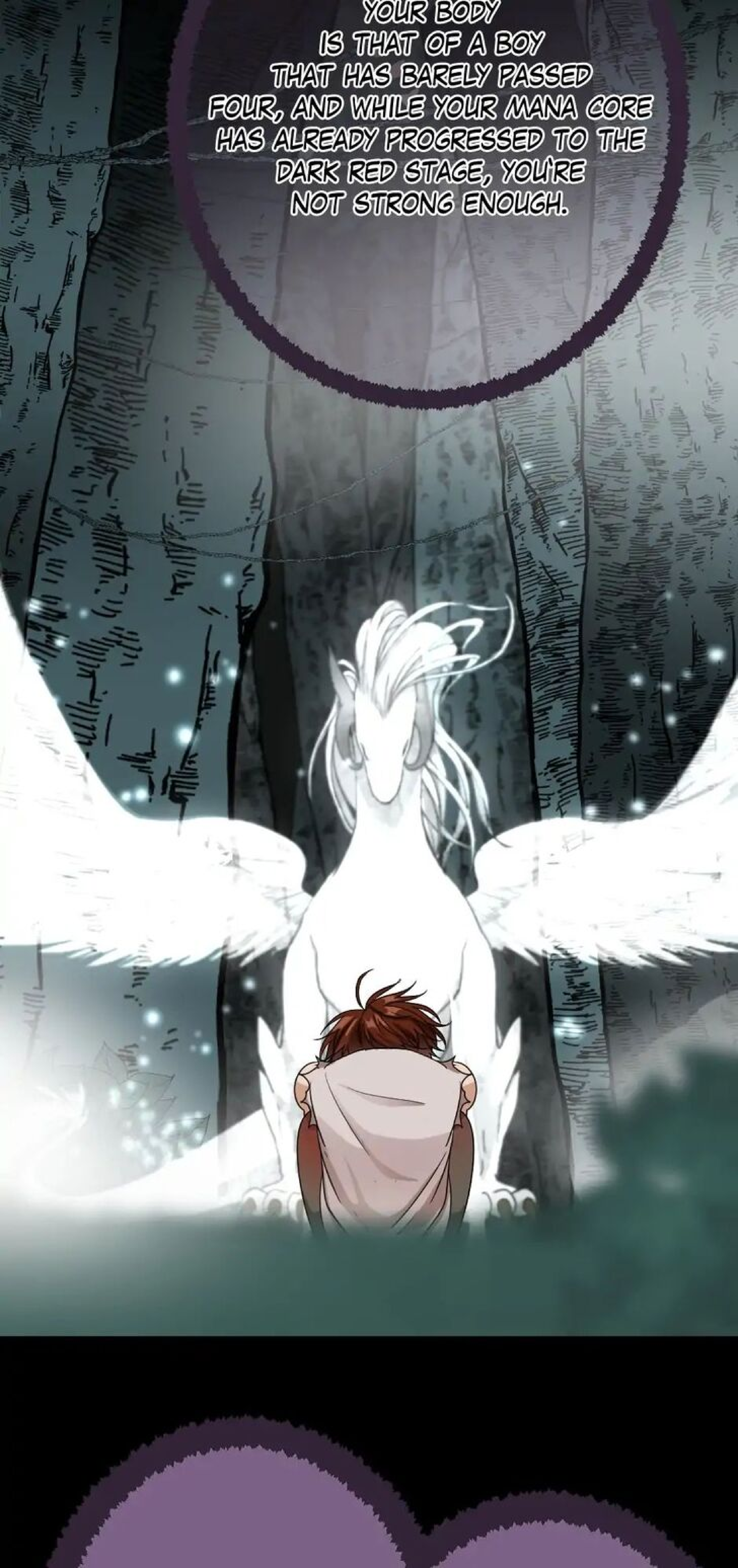

SYLVIA?!
ARE YOU--

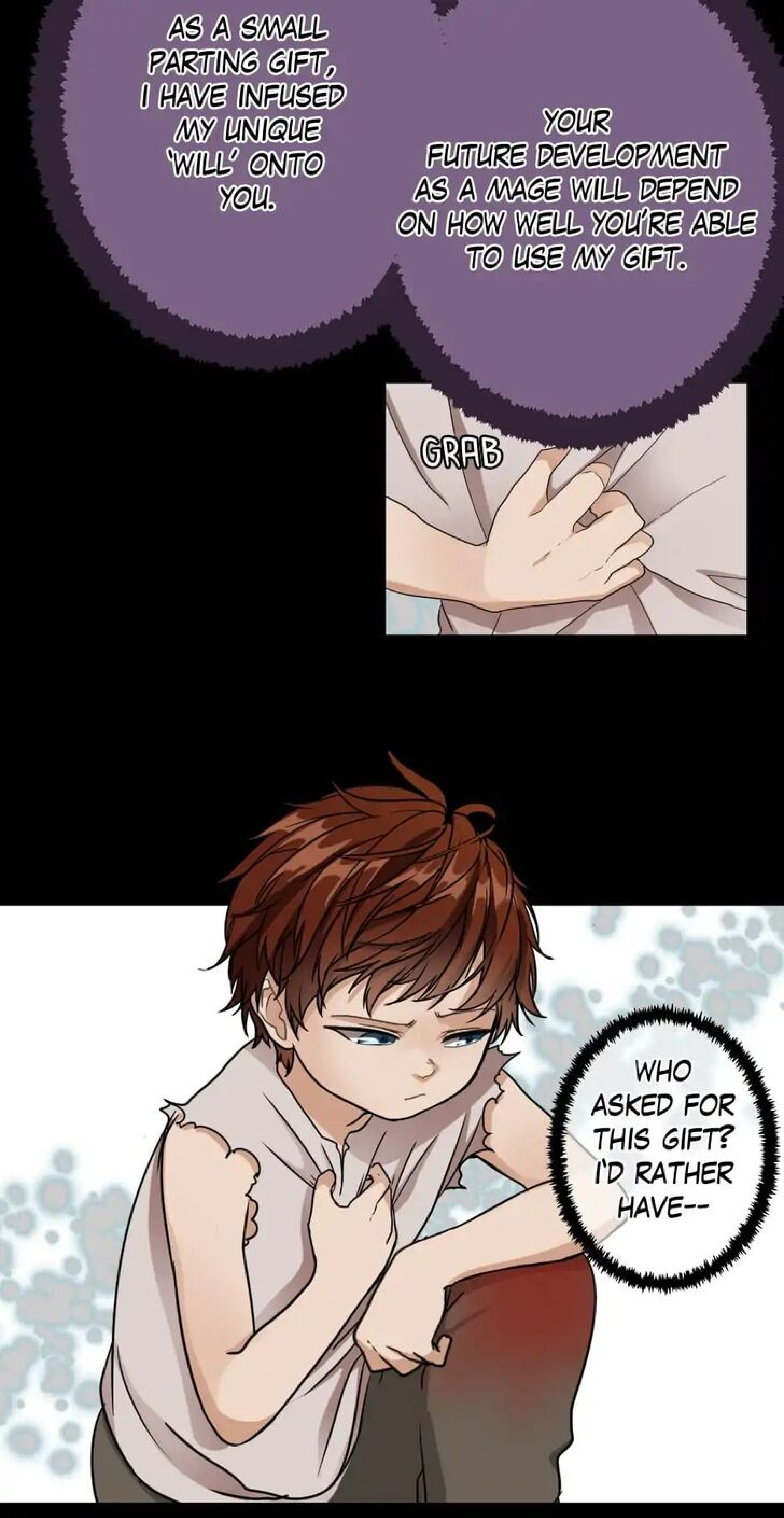

THIS IS SYLVIA.
IF YOU'RE LISTENING TO THIS RIGHT NOW,

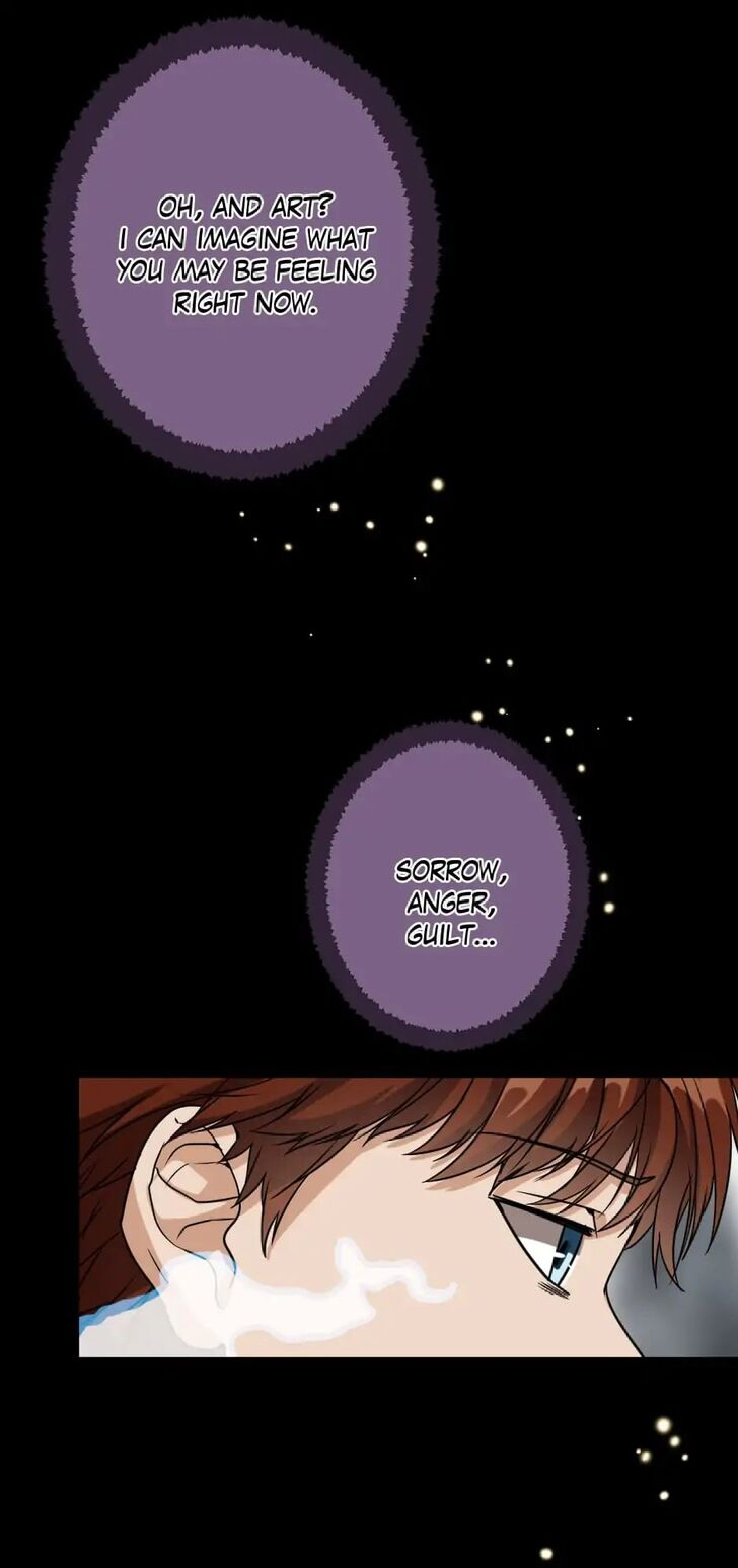

IT MEANS
I HAVE SHOWN
YOU WHAT I
ACTUALLY
AM...


I GUESS SYLVIA MANAGED TO LEAVE ME WITH A MESSAGE EARLIER

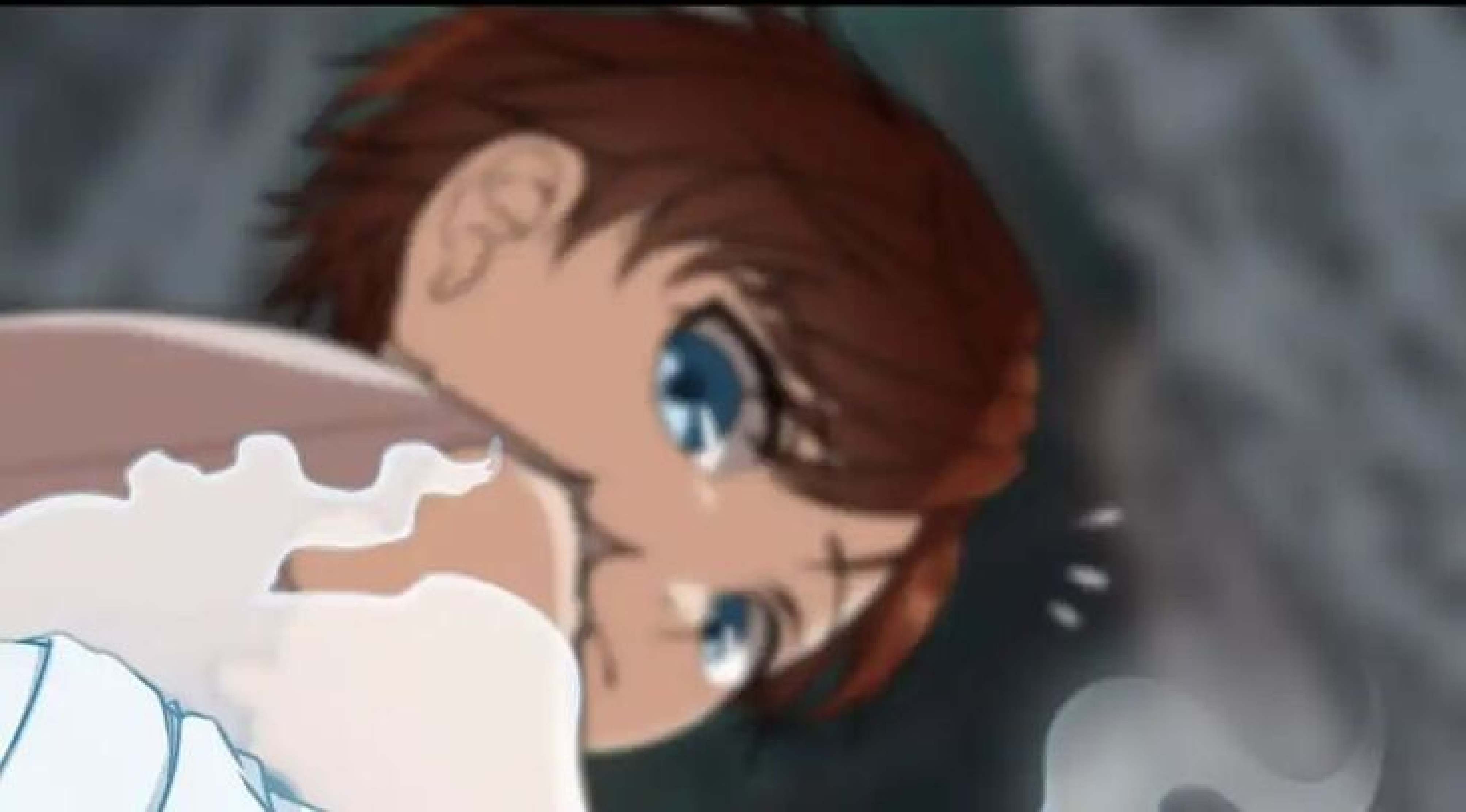

AS FRUSTATING AS IT MIGHT SEEM, YOU'RE NOWHERE NEAR READY FOR THE WHOLE TRUTH.

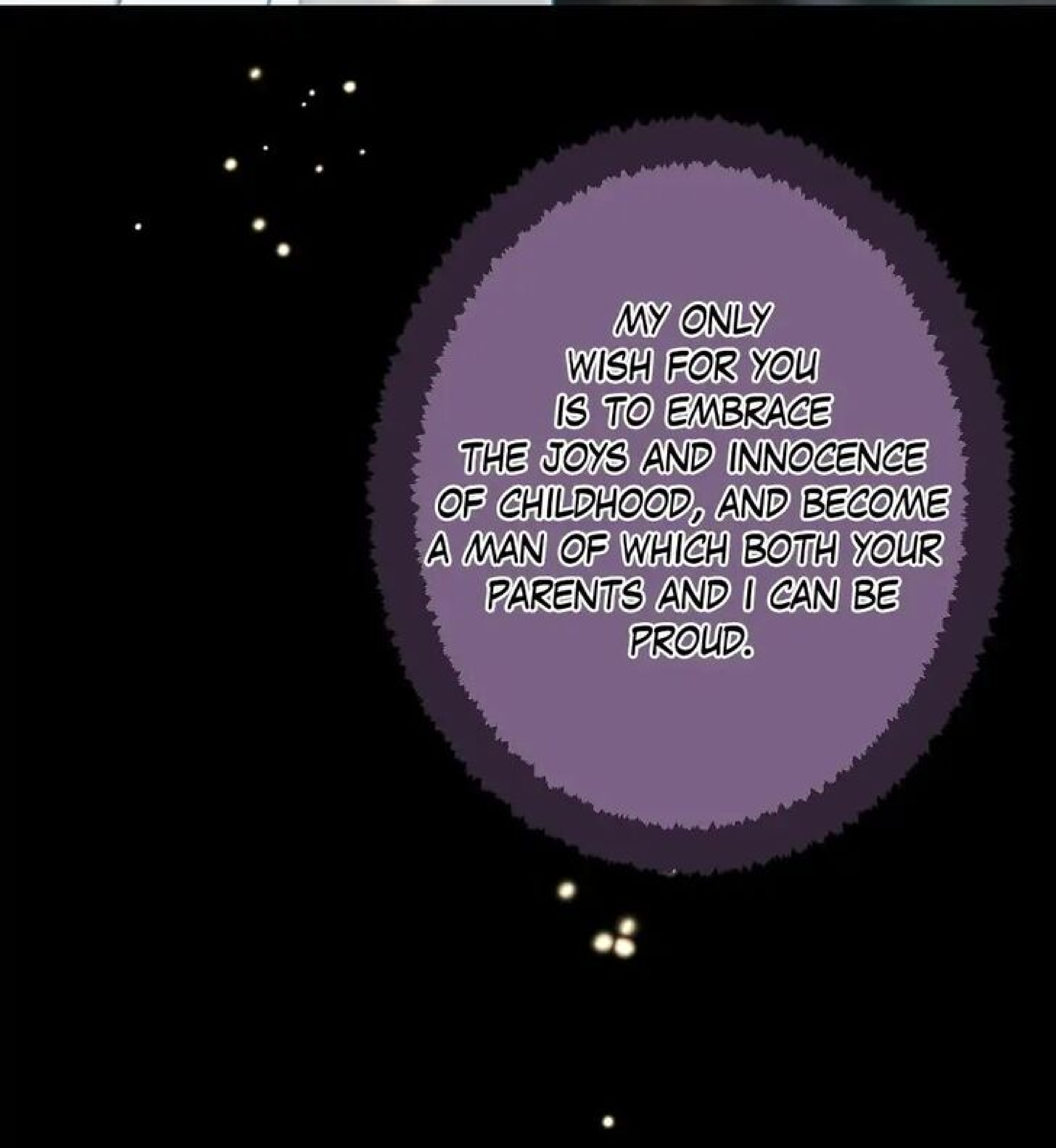

YOUR BODY IS THAT OF A BOY THAT HAS BARELY PASSED FOUR, AND WHILE YOUR MANA CORE HAS ALREADY PROGRESSED TO THE DARK RED STAGE, YOU'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH.

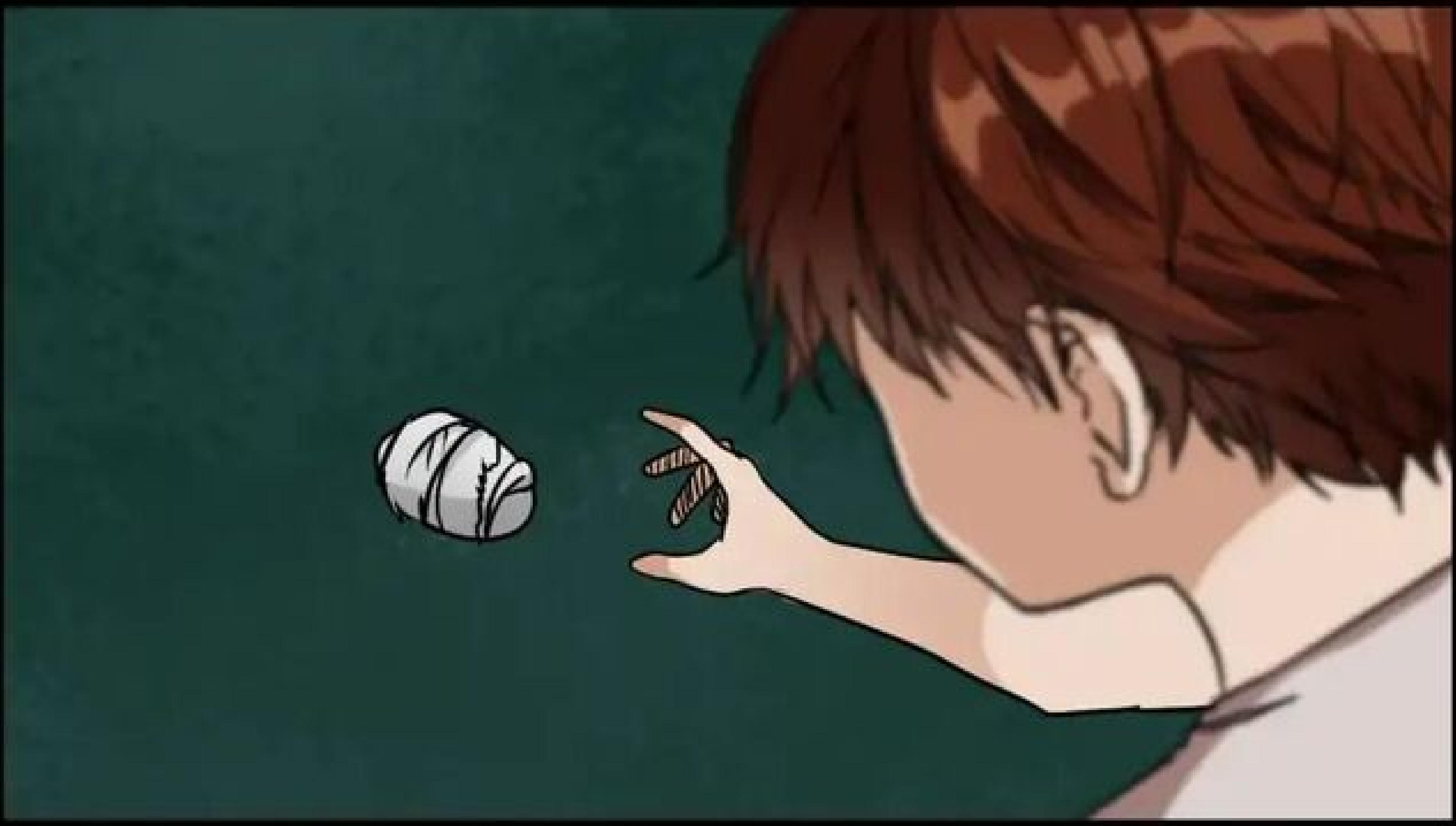

AS A SMALL PARTING GIFT, I HAVE INFUSED MY UNIQUE 'WILL' ONTO YOU.
YOUR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AS A MAGE WILL DEPEND ON HOW WELL YOU'RE ABLE TO USE MY GIFT.
GRAB
WHO ASKED FOR THIS GIFT? I'D RATHER HAVE--

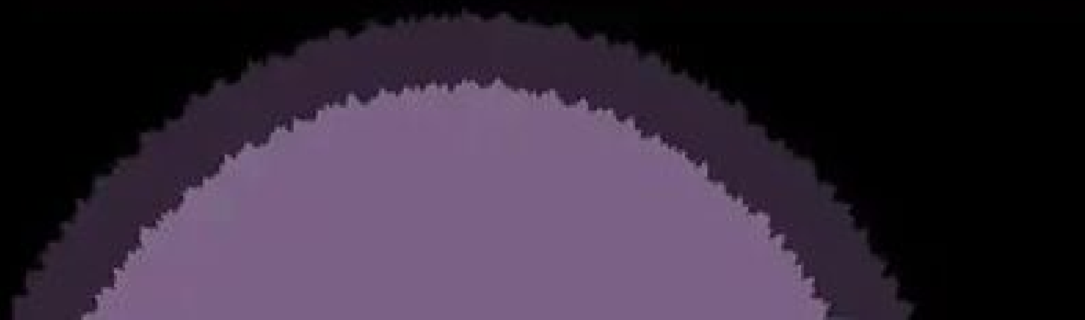

OH, AND ART? I CAN IMAGINE WHAT YOU MAY BE FEELING RIGHT NOW.
SORROW, ANGER, GUILT...

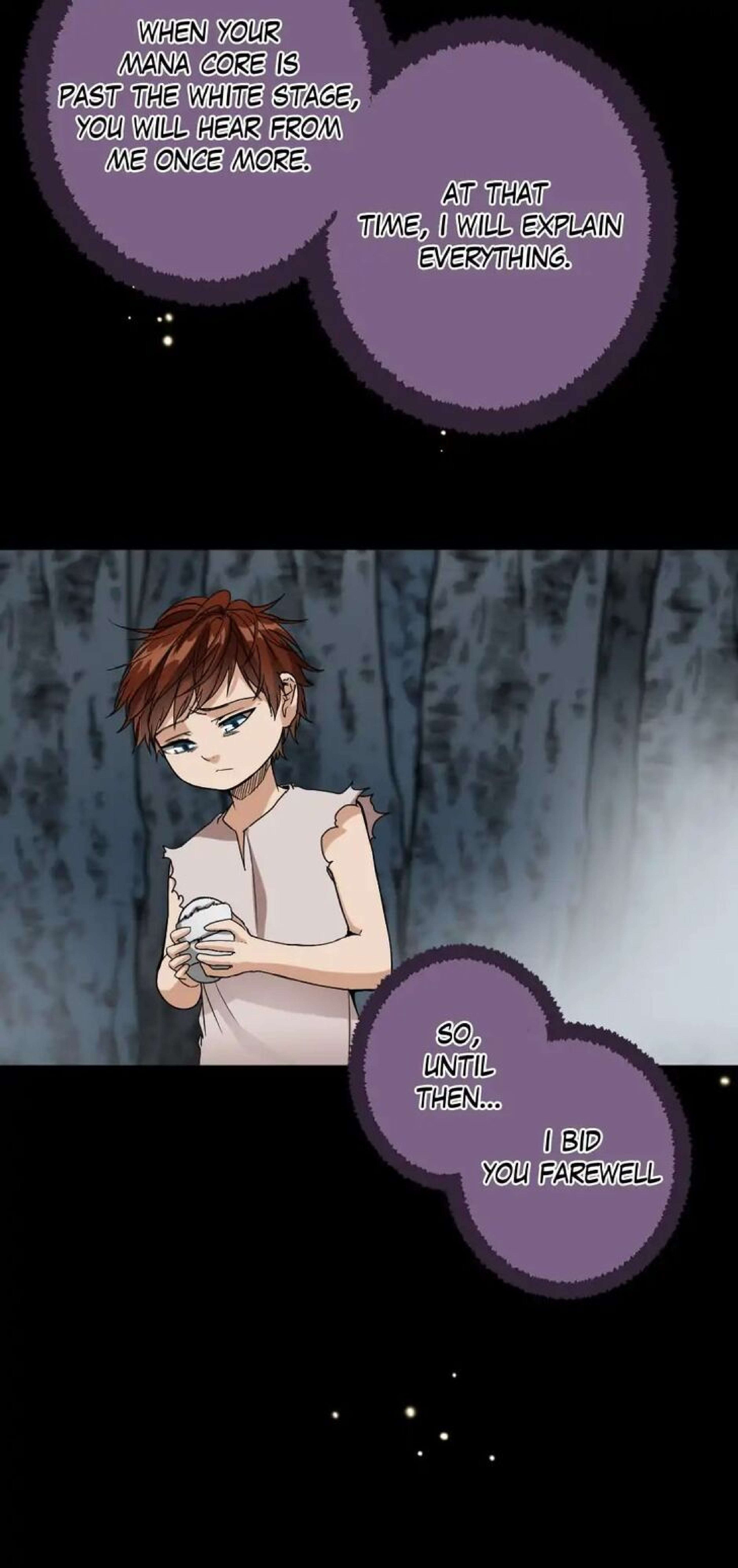
BUT REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE A FAMILY TO LOOK OUT FOR AND A PURPOSE TO FULFILL IN THIS LIFE.

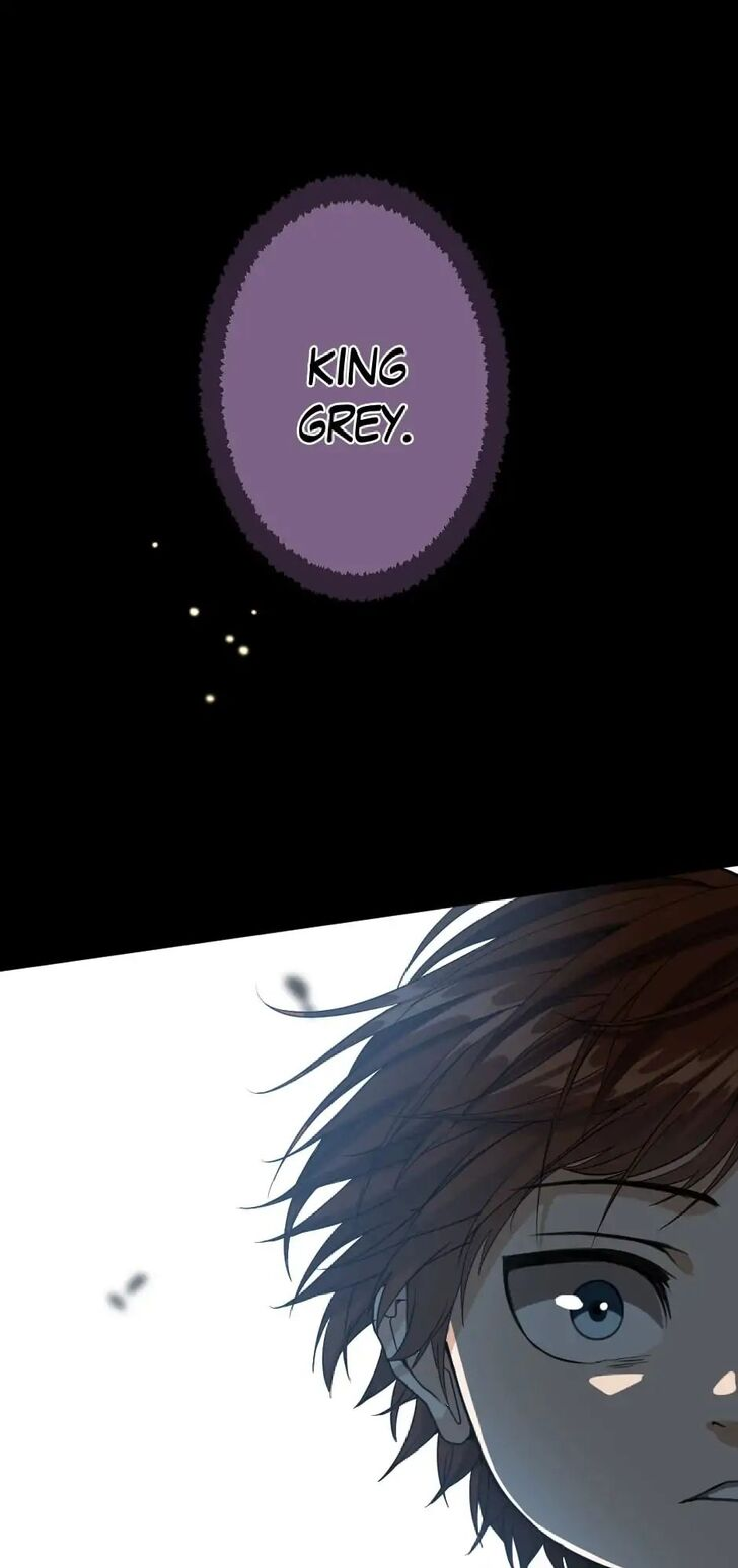


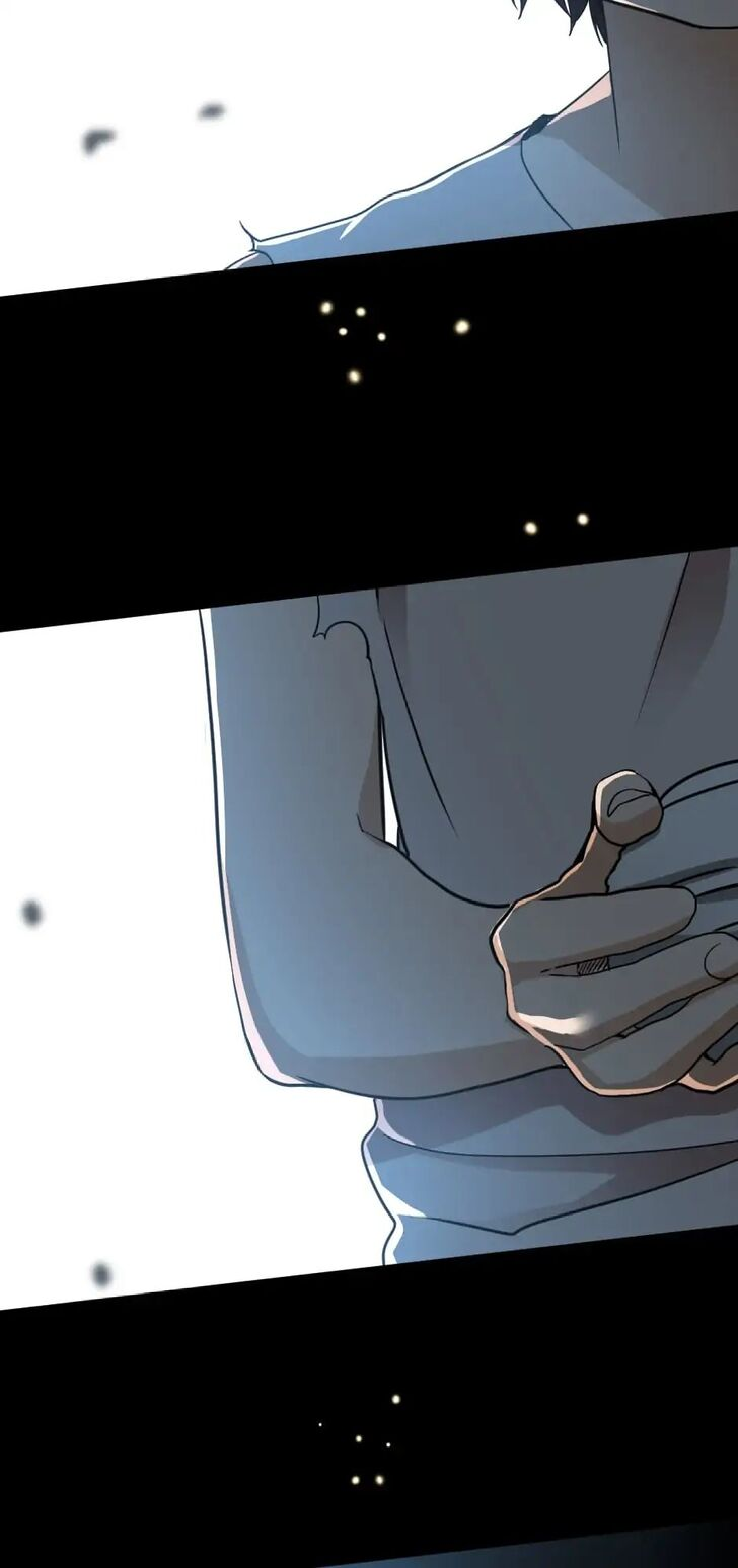

MY ONLY WISH FOR YOU IS TO EMBRACE THE JOYS AND INNOCENCE OF CHILDHOOD, AND BECOME A MAN OF WHICH BOTH YOUR PARENTS AND I CAN BE PROUD.






WHEN YOUR MANA CORE IS PAST THE WHITE STAGE, YOU WILL HEAR FROM ME ONCE MORE.
AT THAT TIME, I WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.
SO, UNTIL THEN...
I BID YOU FAREWELL


KING GREY.



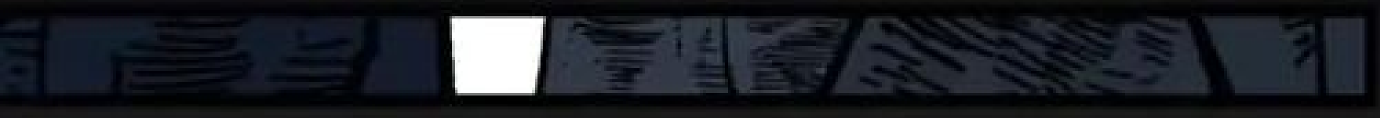
THE BEGINNING AFTER THE END

STORY BY
TURTLEME

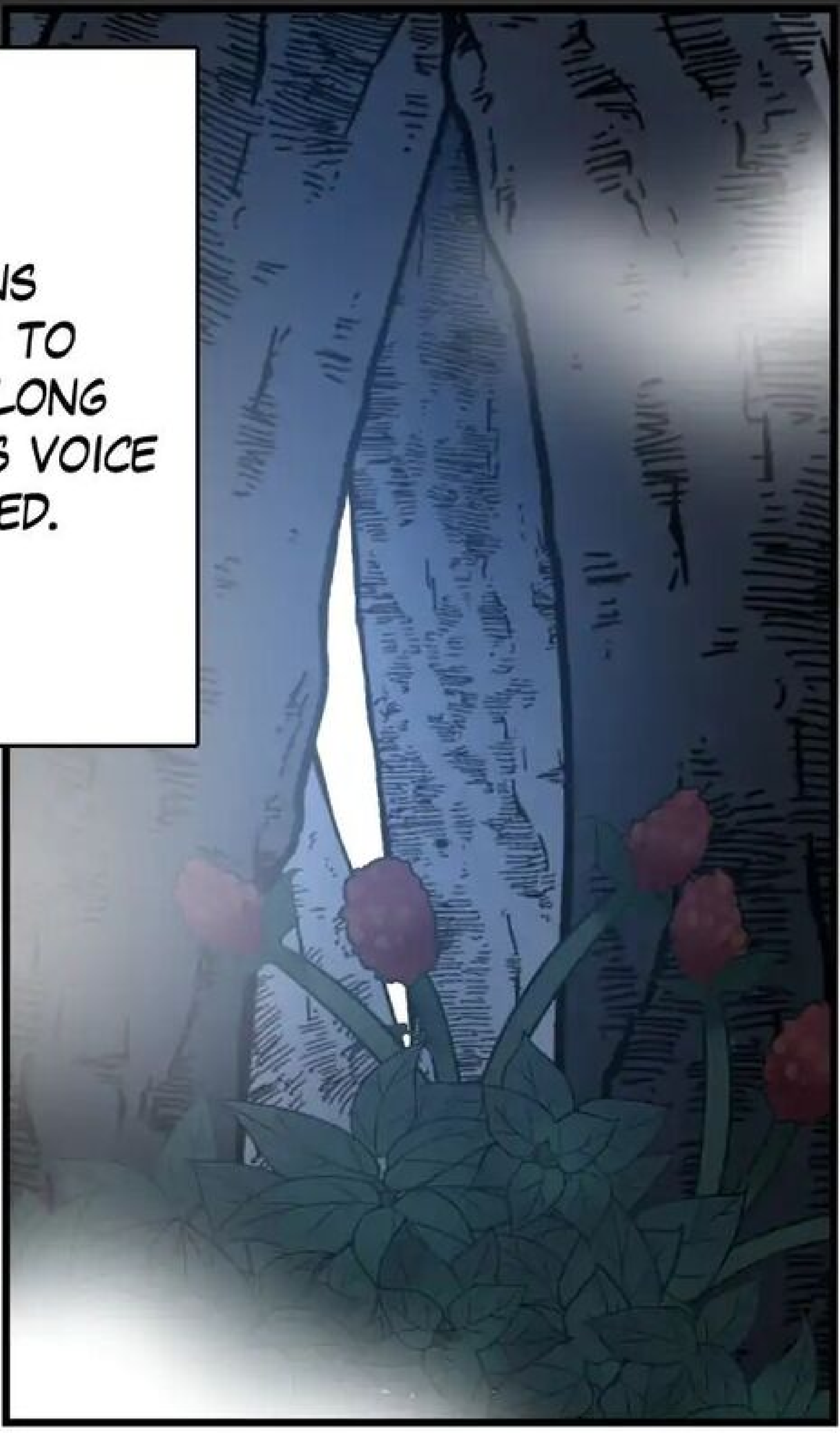
ART BY
FUYUKI23

COLOR ASSISTANT BY
ISSATSU

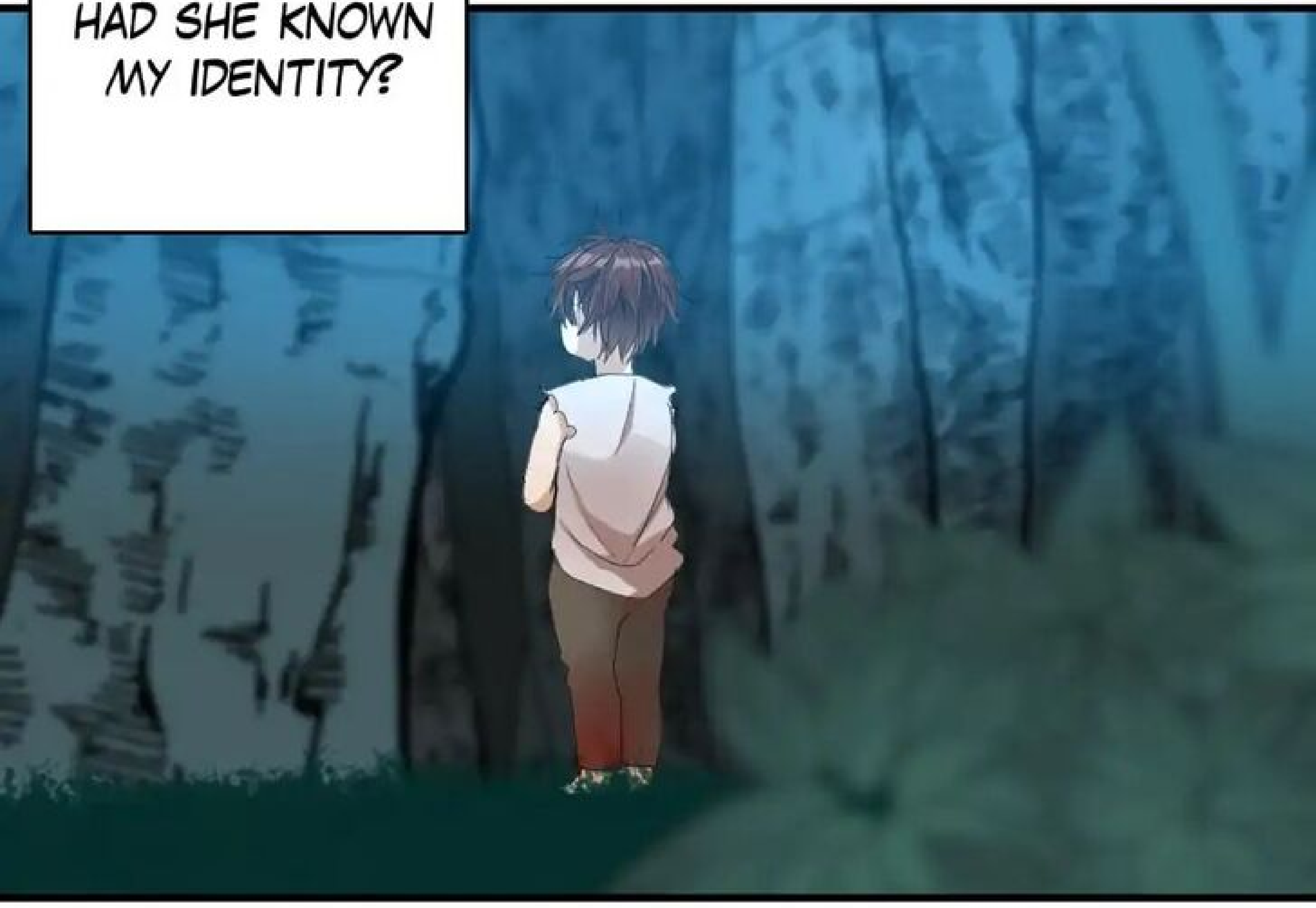
QUALITY CONTROL BY
KISAI ENTERTAINMENT



QUESTIONS CONTINUED TO PESTER ME LONG AFTER SYLVIA'S VOICE DISAPPEARED.

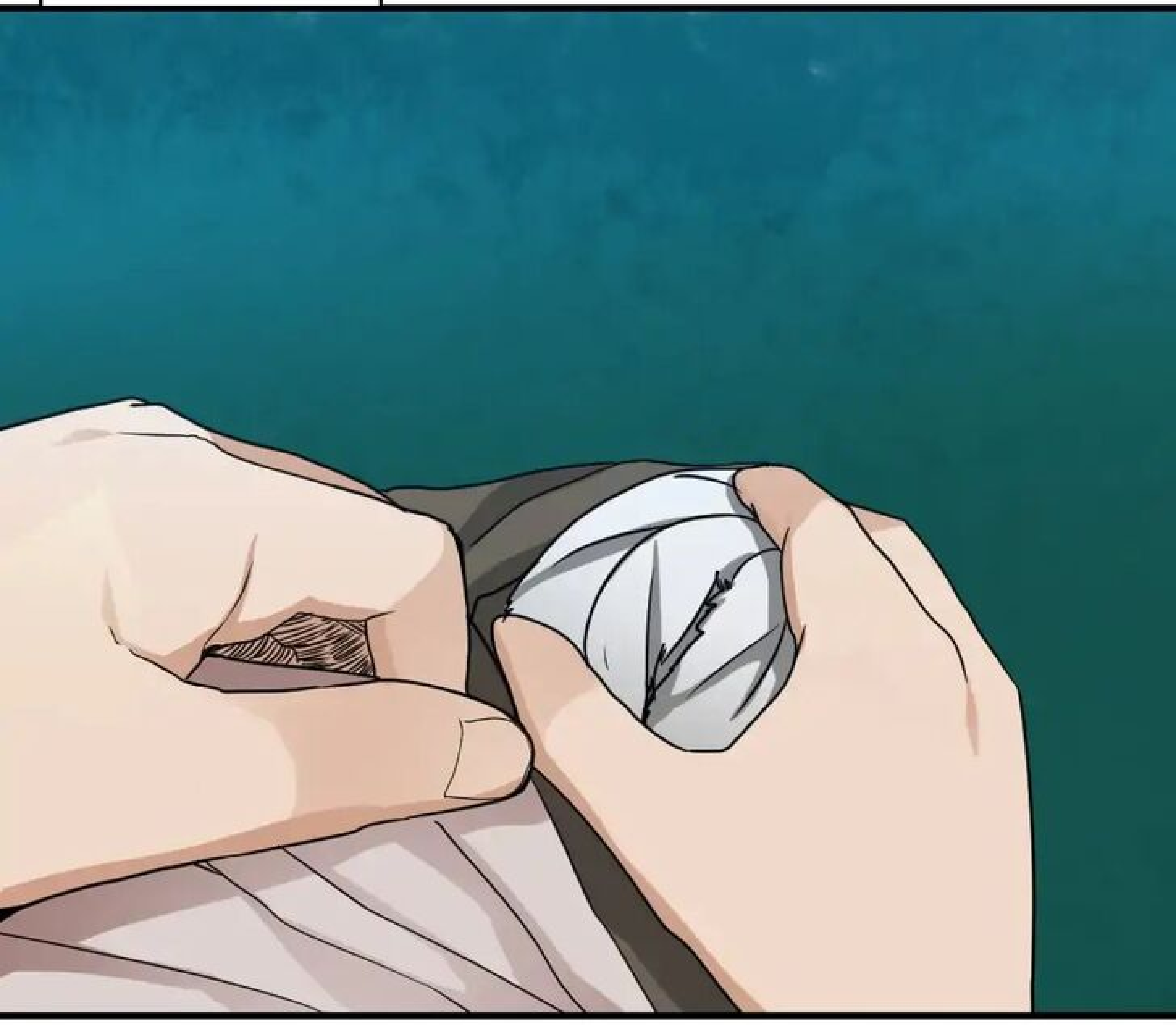


HOW LONG HAD SHE KNOWN MY IDENTITY?

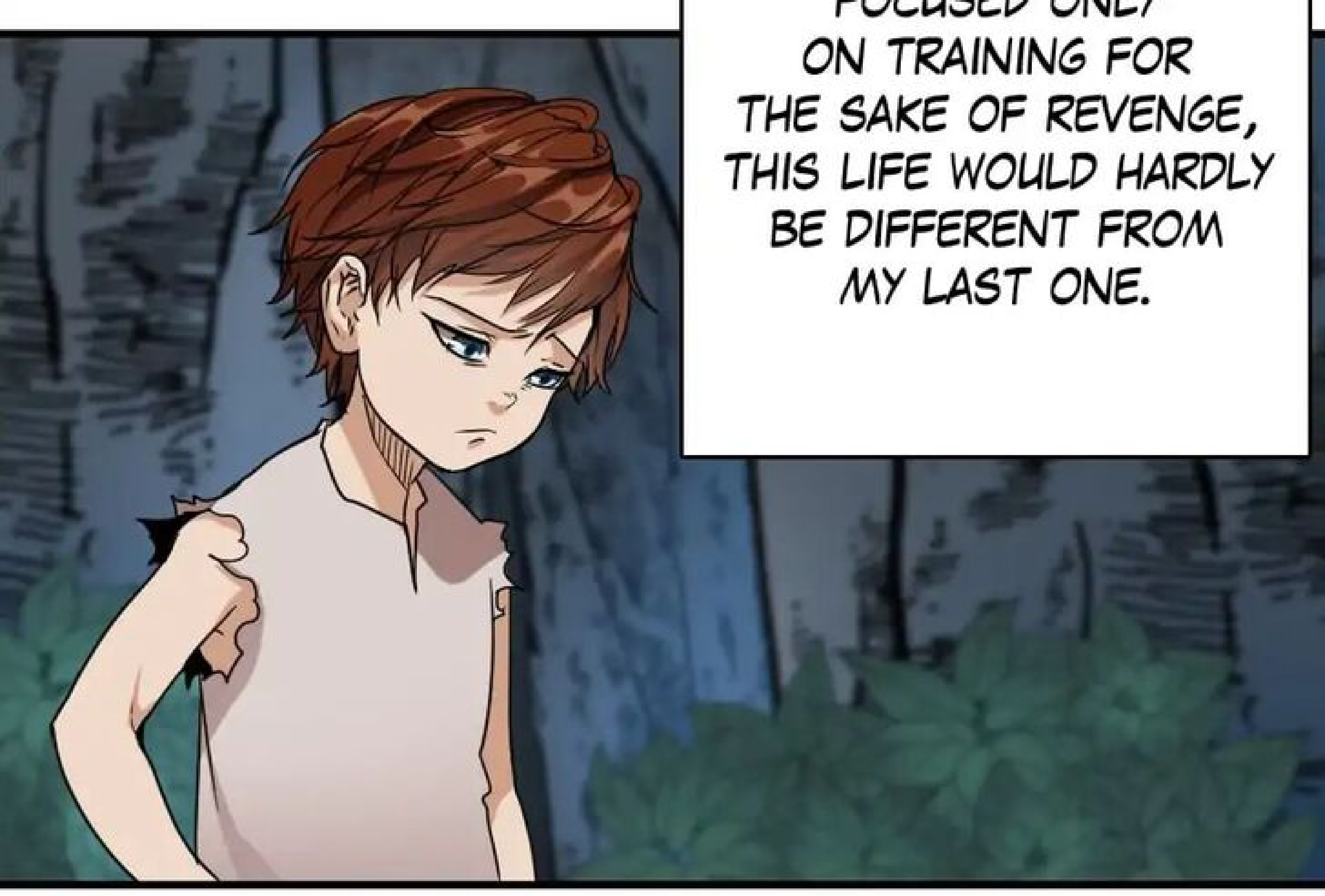


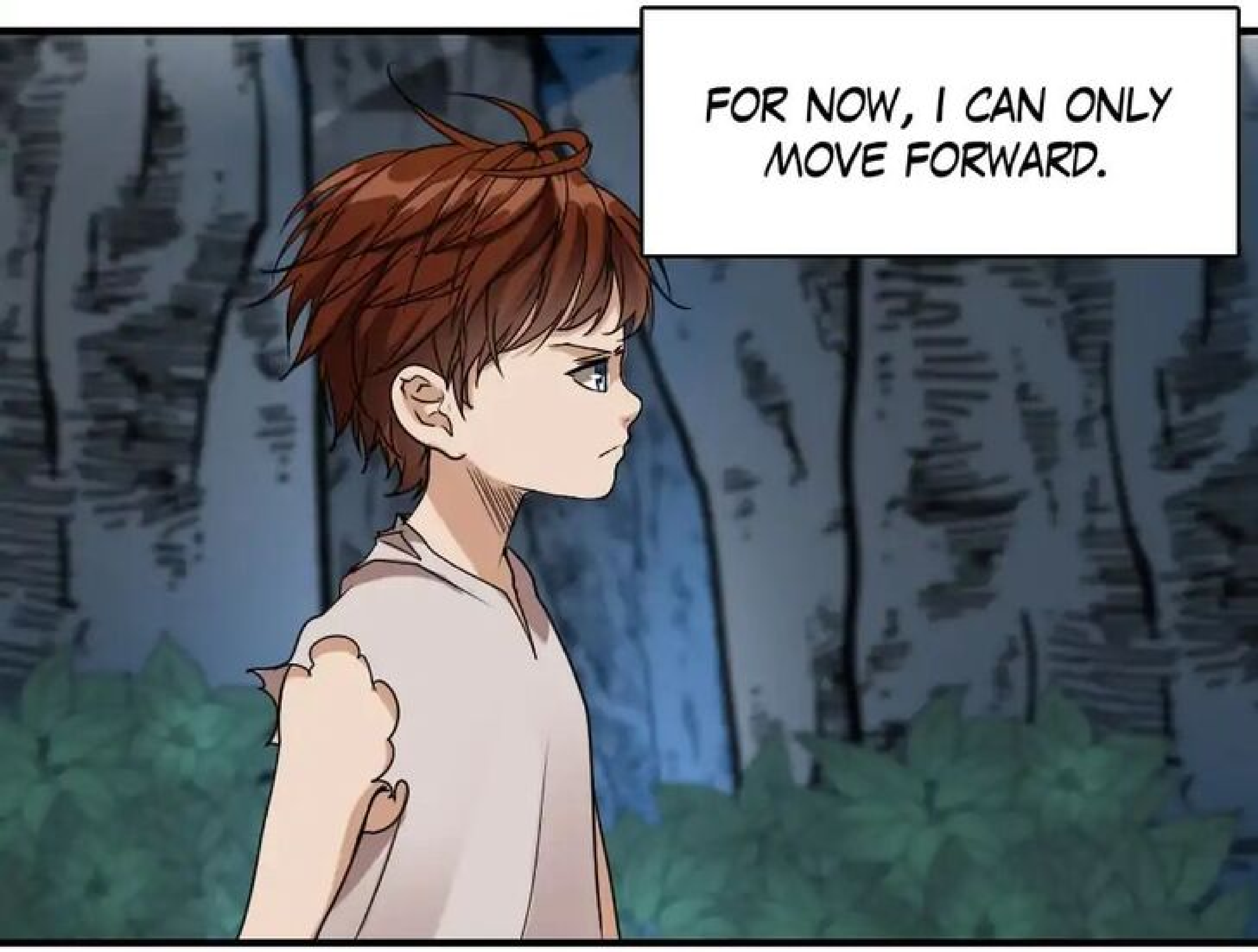
HOW DID SHE EVEN KNOW?

ONE THING
WAS CLEAR
THOUGH.



IF I
FOCUSED ONLY


FOCUSED ONLY ON TRAINING FOR THE SAKE OF REVENGE, THIS LIFE WOULD HARDLY BE DIFFERENT FROM MY LAST ONE.


FOR NOW, I CAN ONLY MOVE FORWARD.

BUT FIRST...

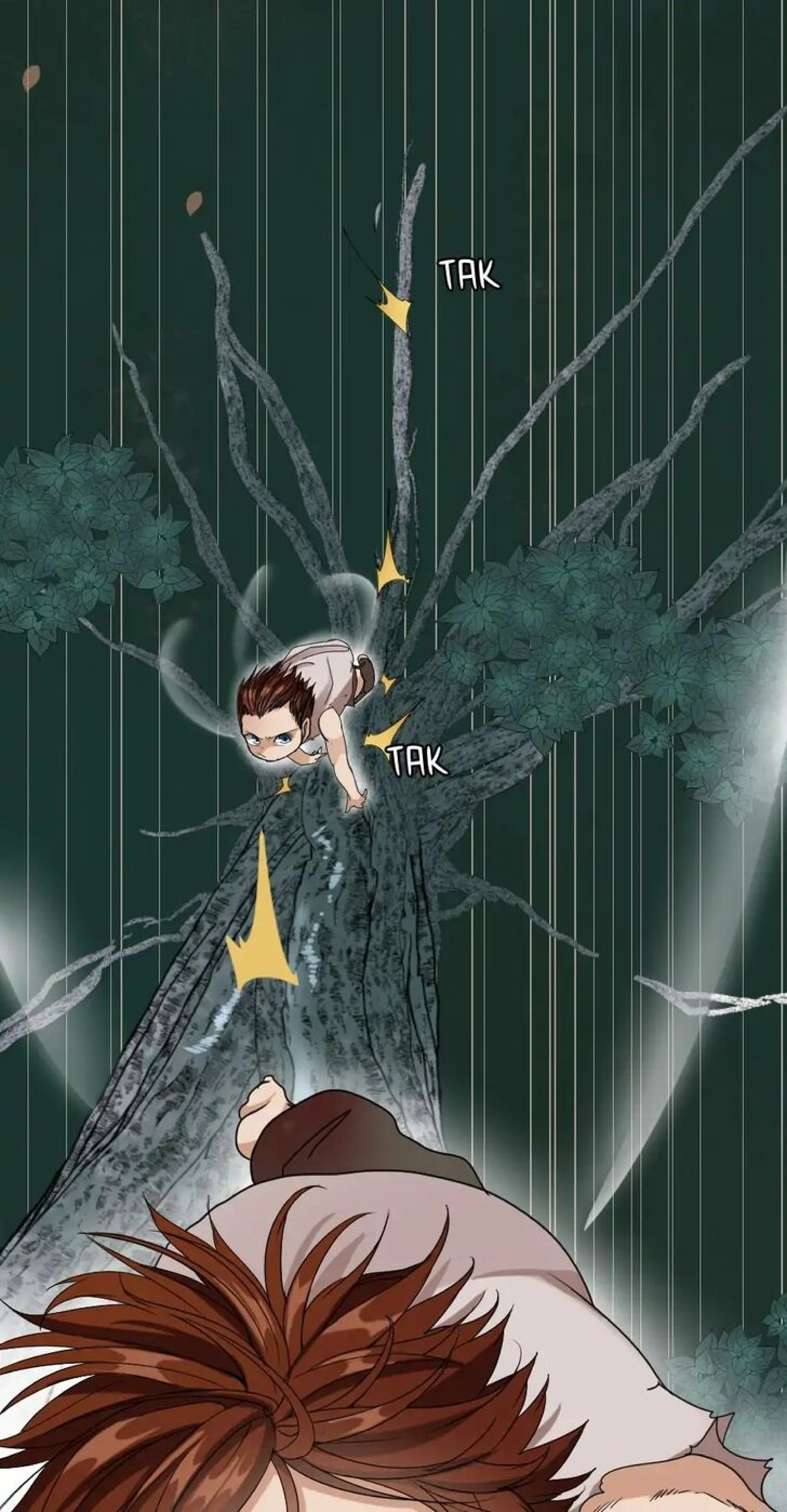
WHERE THE HELL AM I?

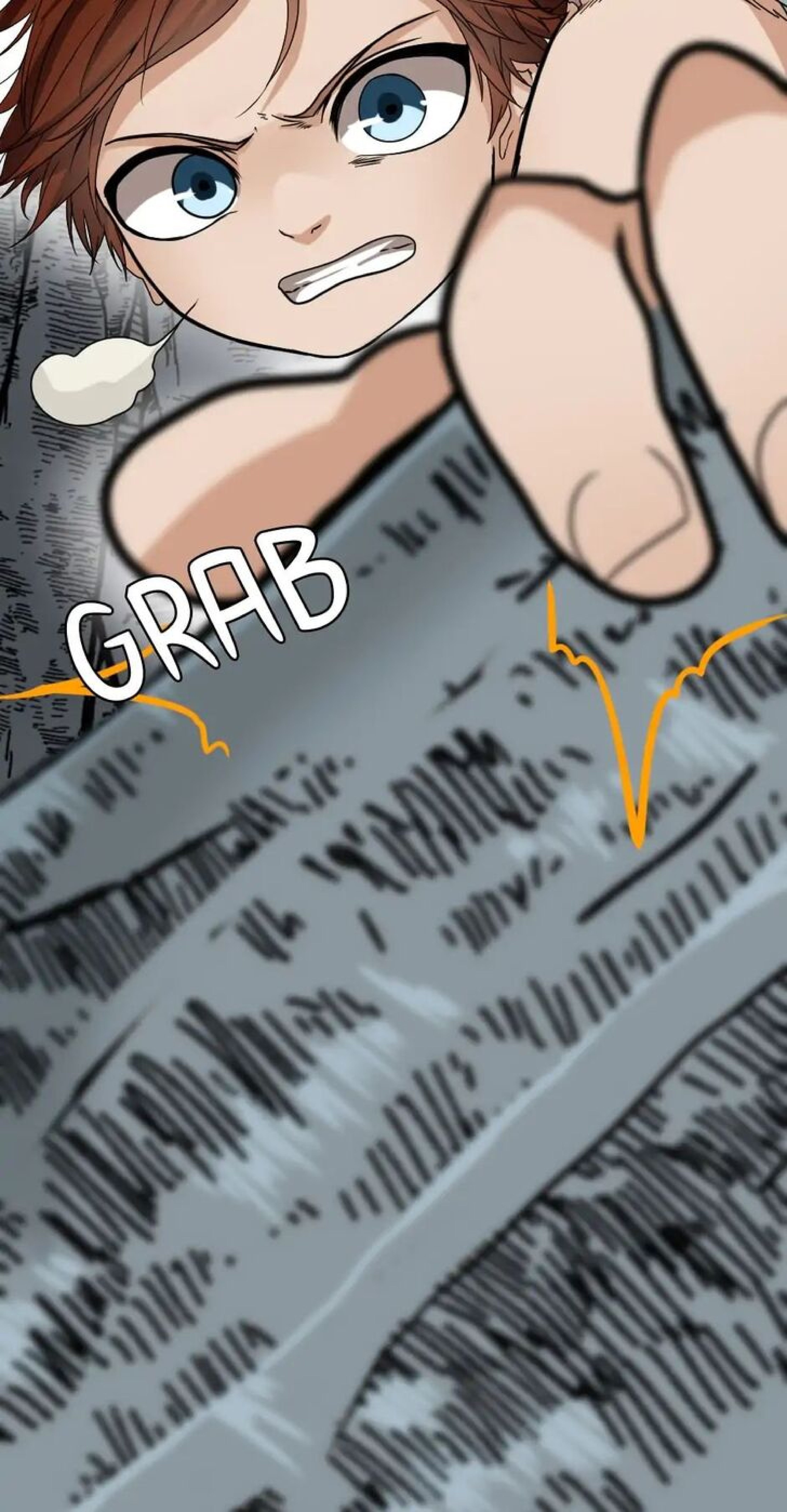
SHF

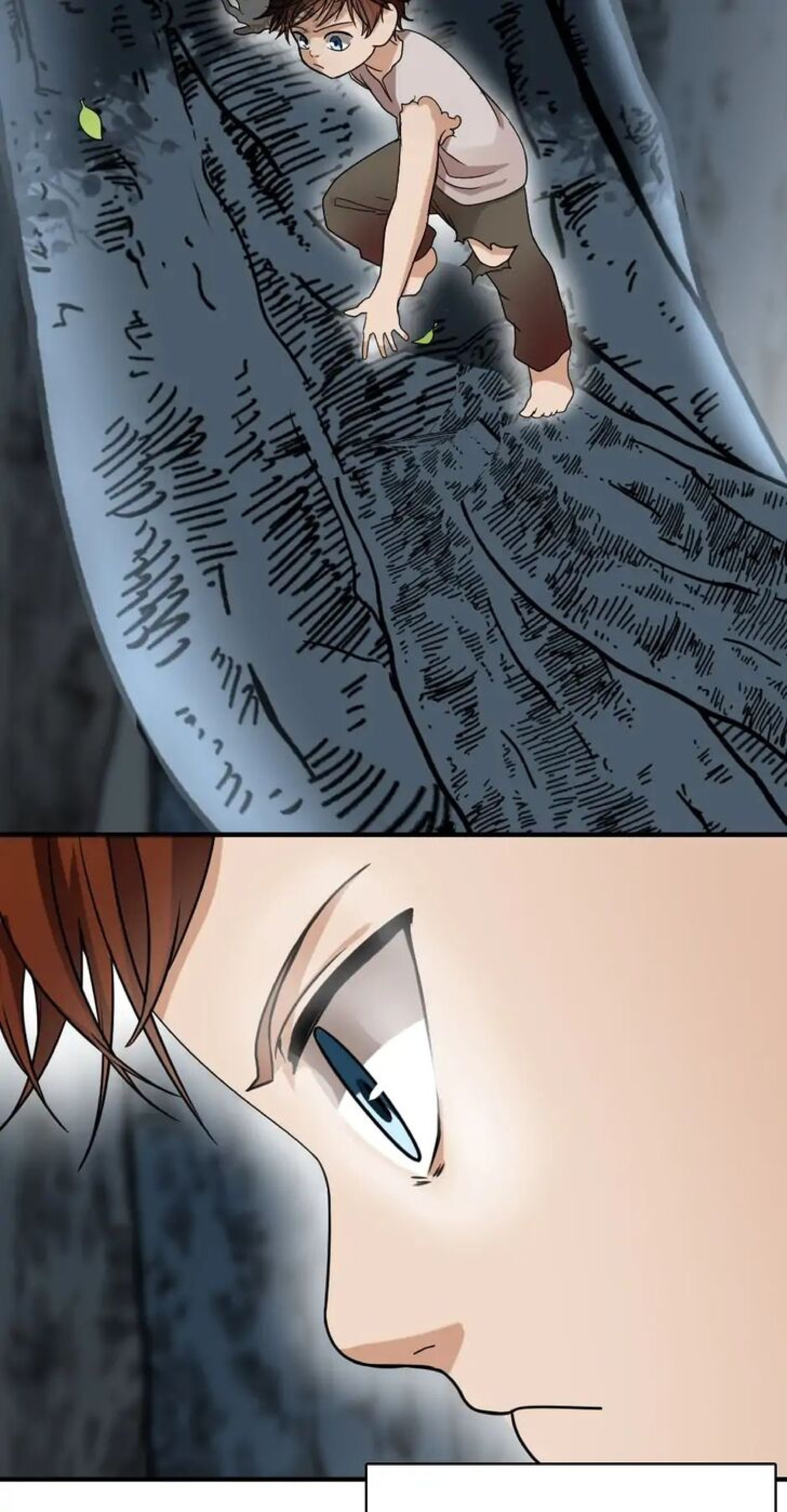
SSSHH

DASH

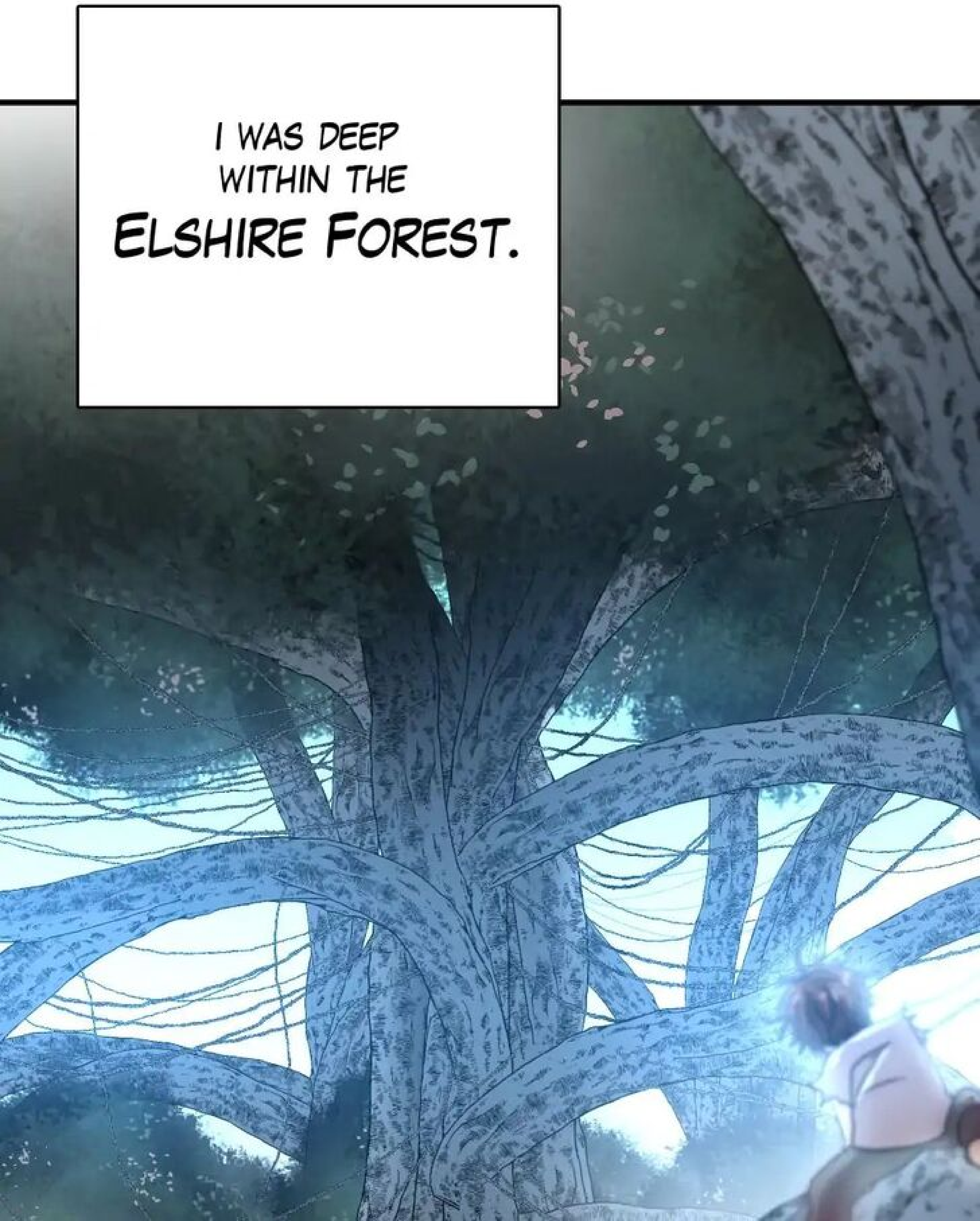
TAK

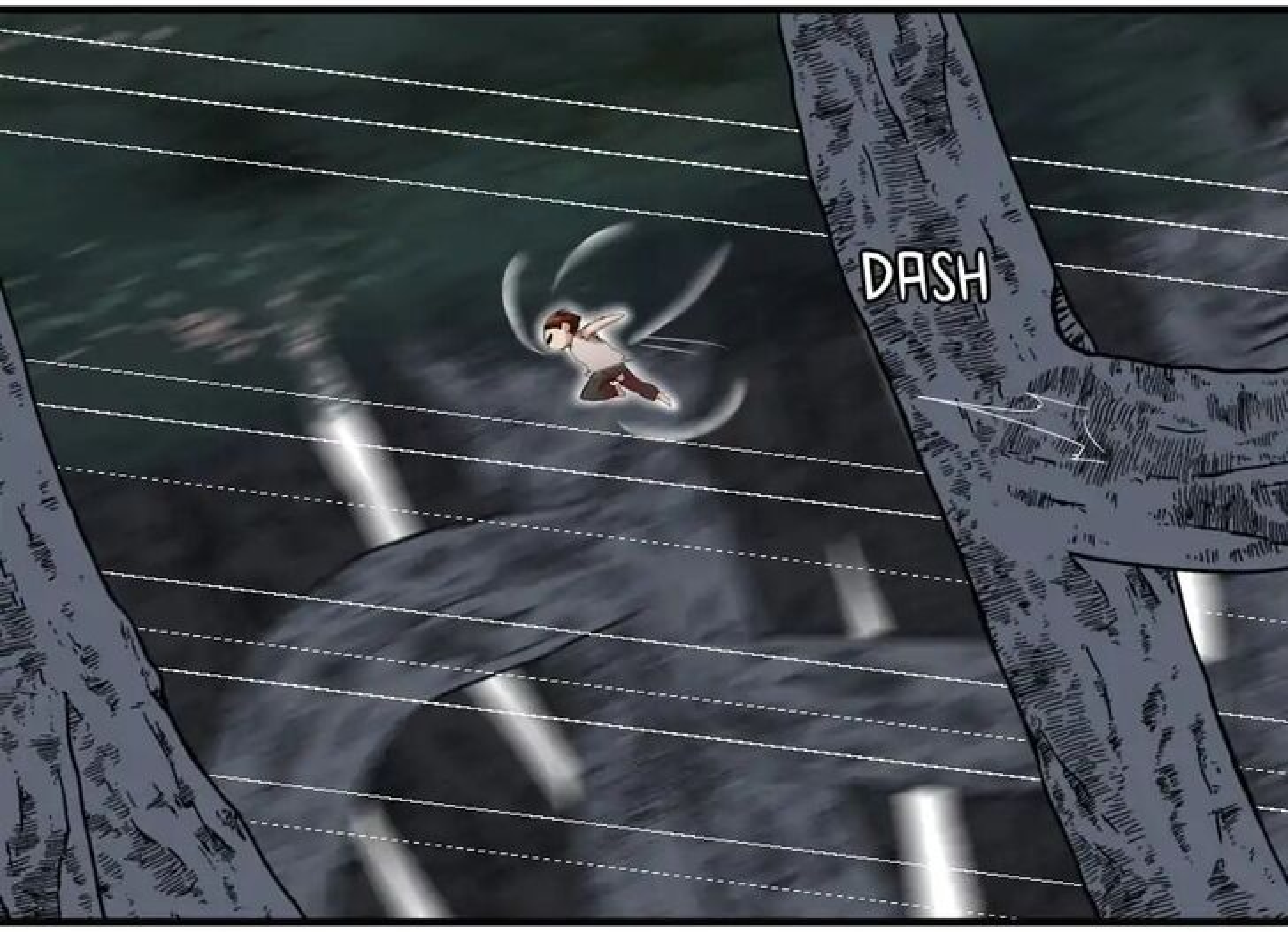

TAK
TAK


GRAB

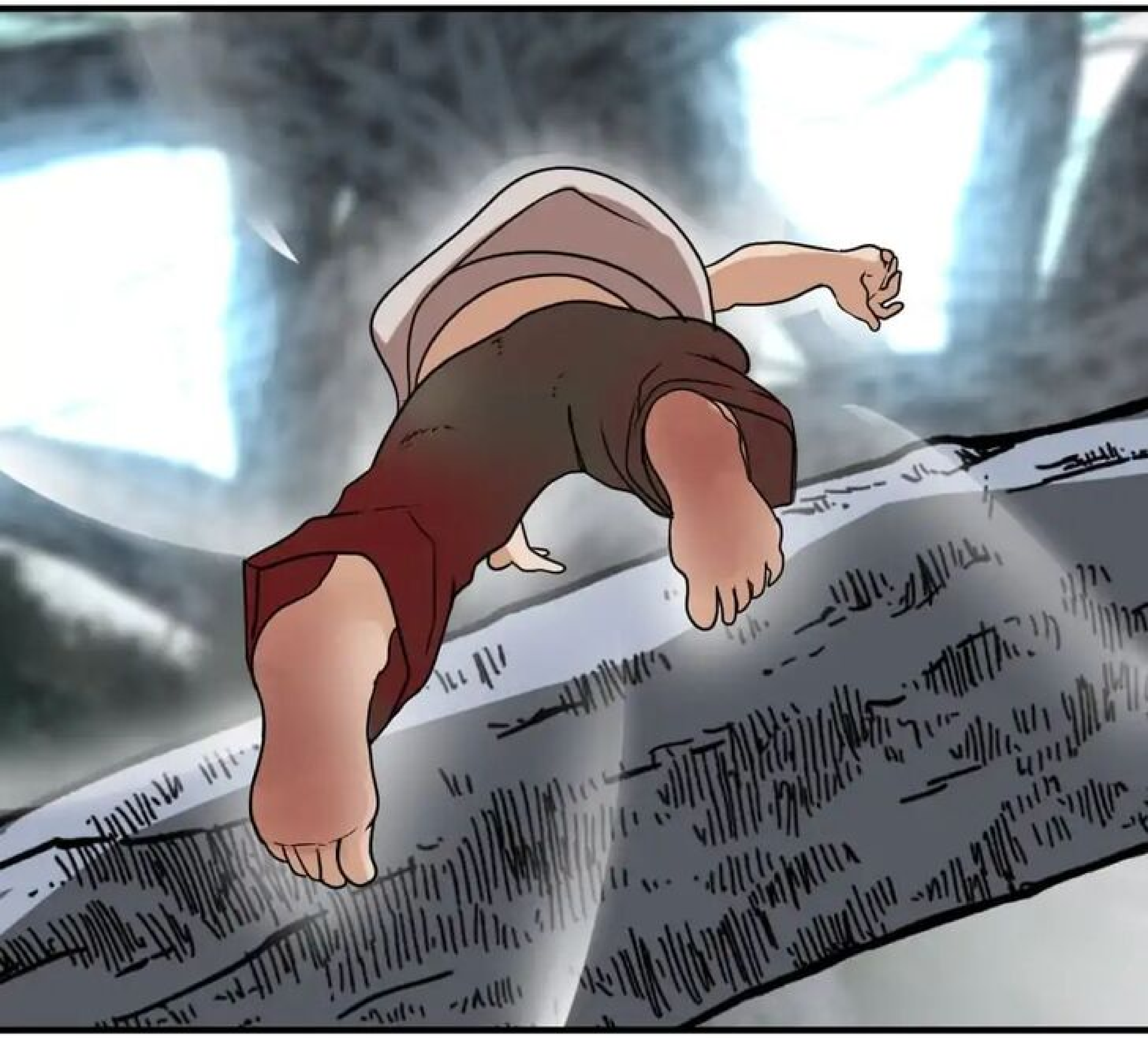


EVEN WITH MANA, MY VISION IS RESTRICTED, BUT ONE THING IS CLEAR...


I WAS DEEP WITHIN THE ELSHIRE FOREST.



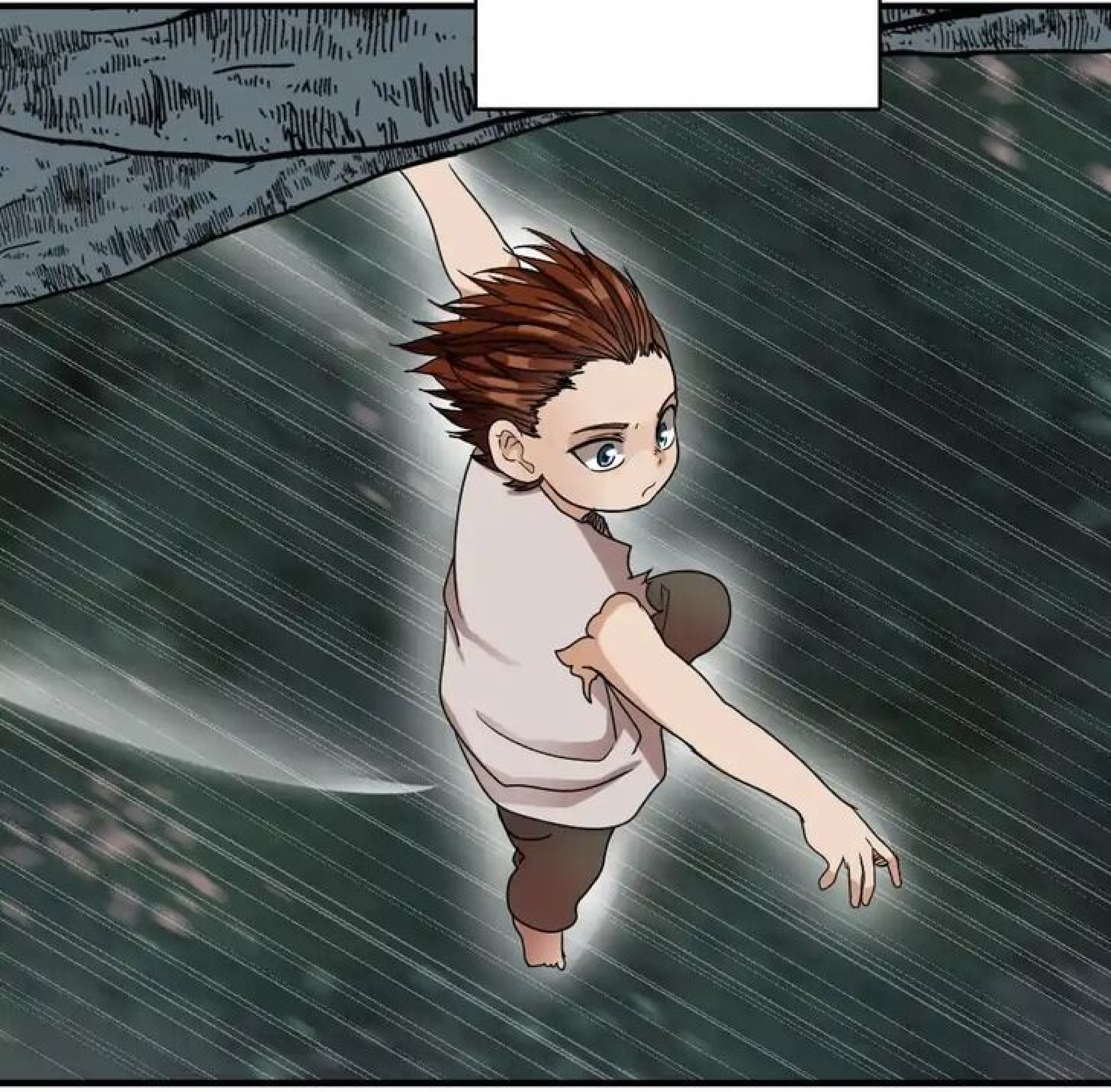
EVEN JUST BARELY BEING ABLE TO USE THE MANA ROTATION THAT SYLVIA TAUGHT ME,



I'M ABLE TO USE MAGIC FOR A LOT LONGER.

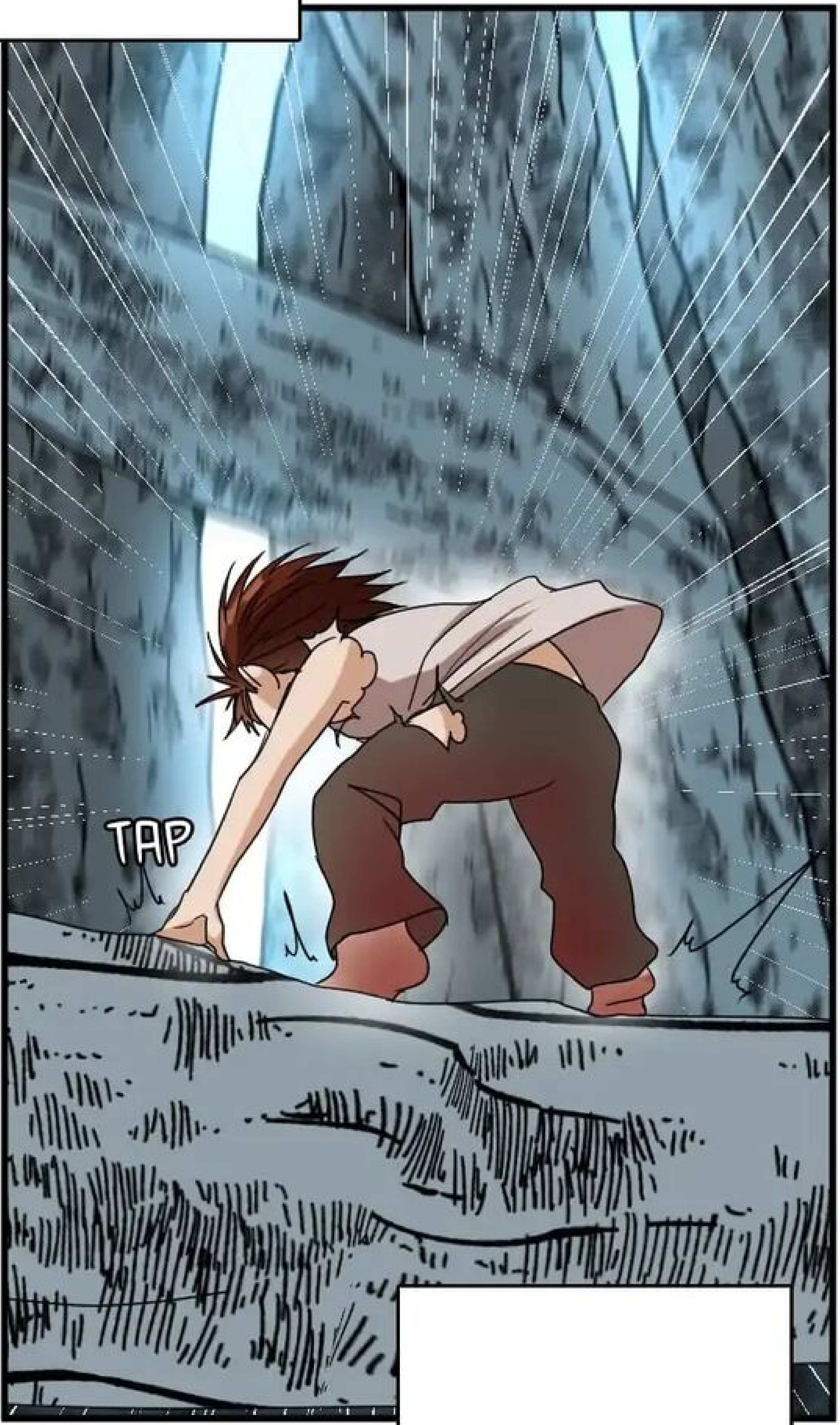
STILL... I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER HOW I ENDED

UP HERE.

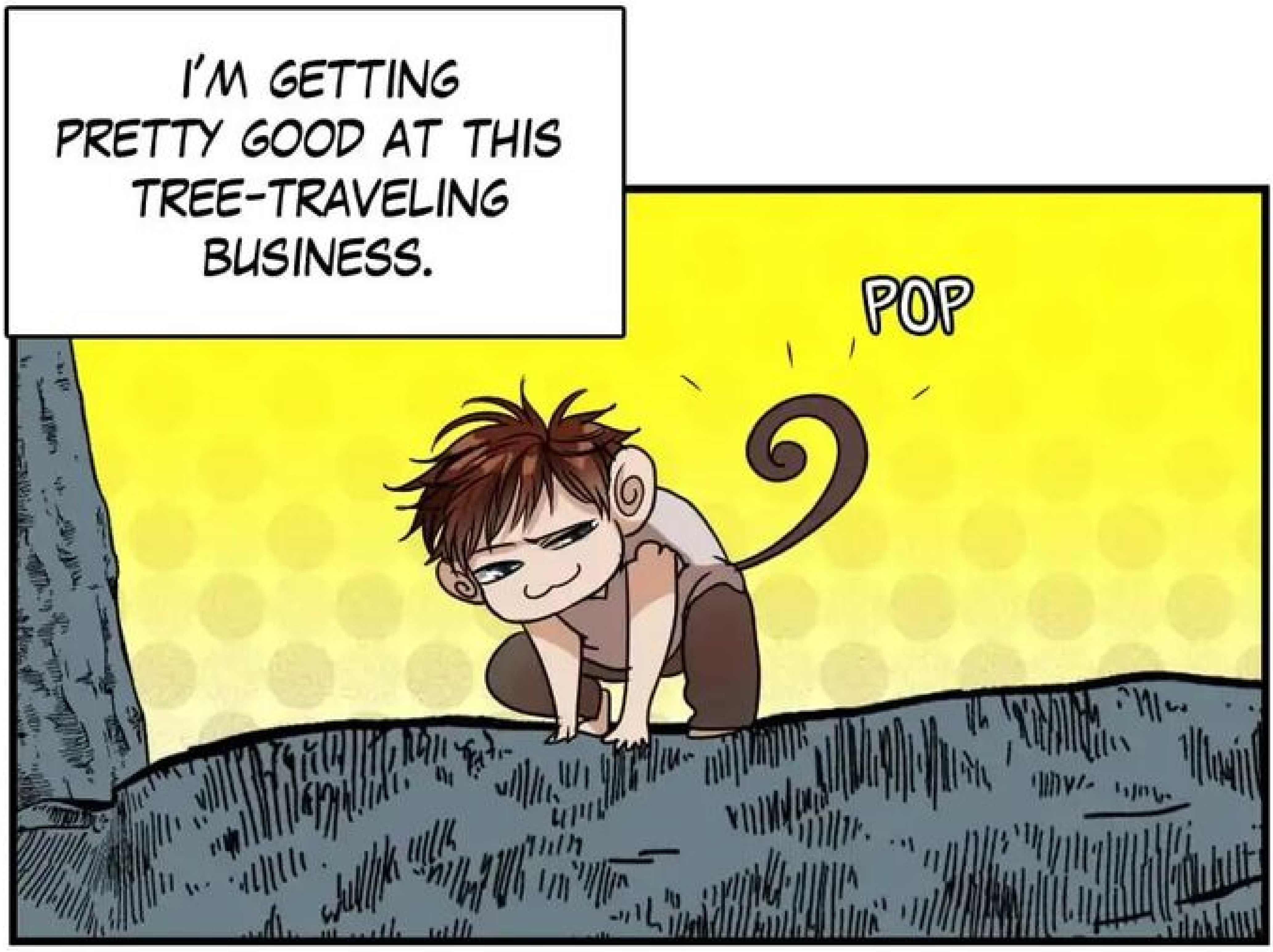


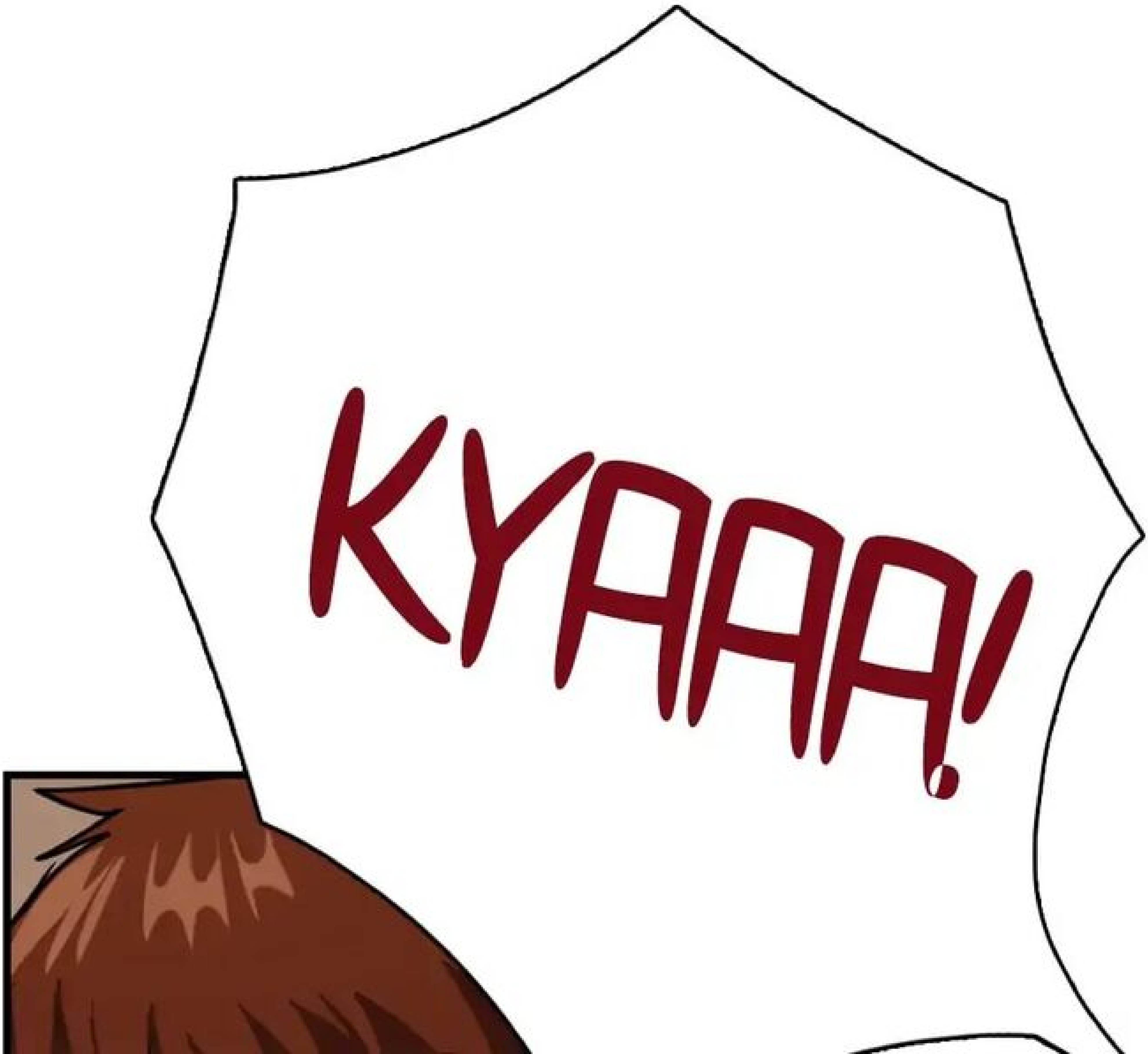
SYLVIA SAID
THAT I WOULD

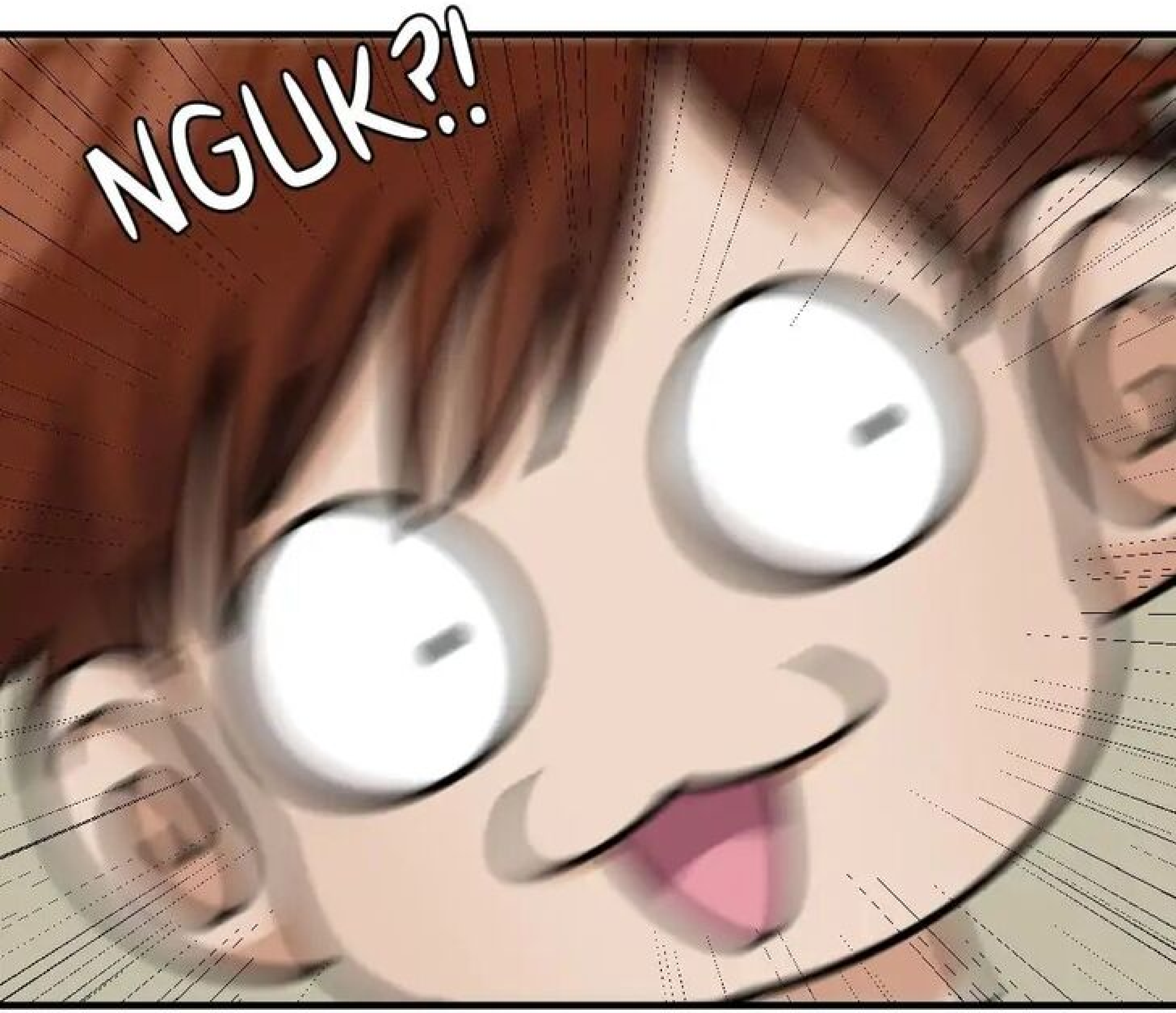
THAT I WOULD
ARRIVE NEAR OTHER
HUMANS.

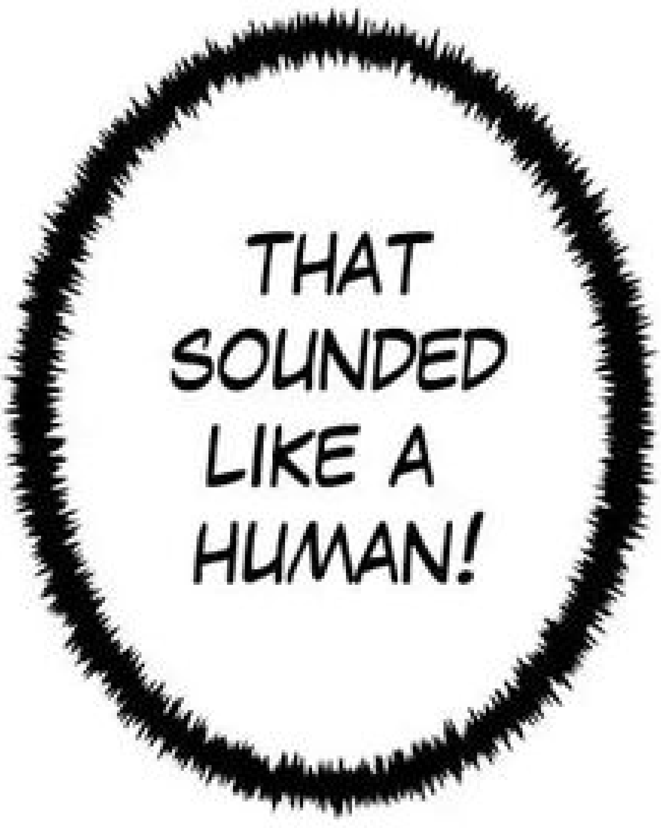


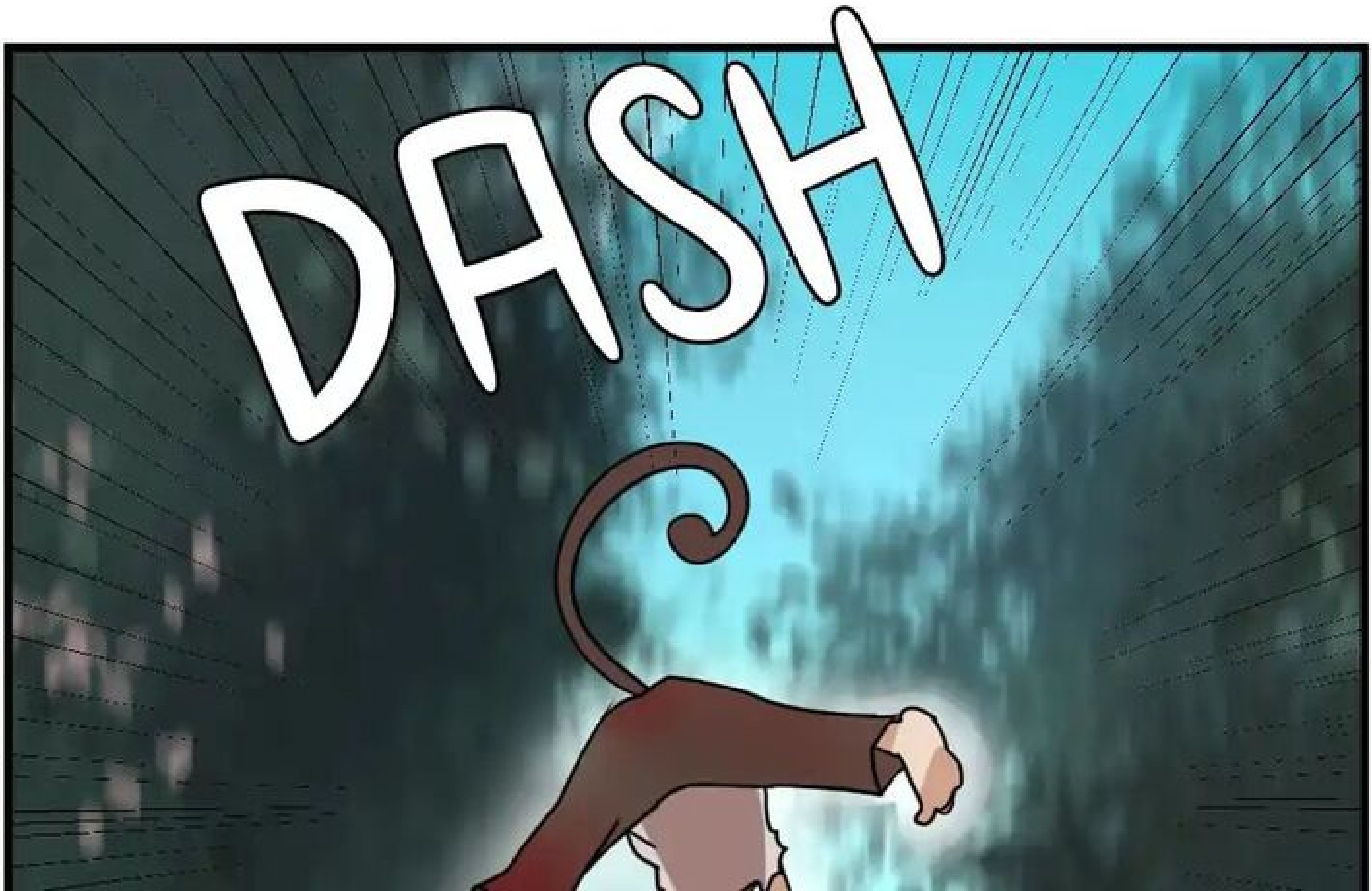
NO MATTER,
I'LL JUST KEEP
LOOKING AROUND.

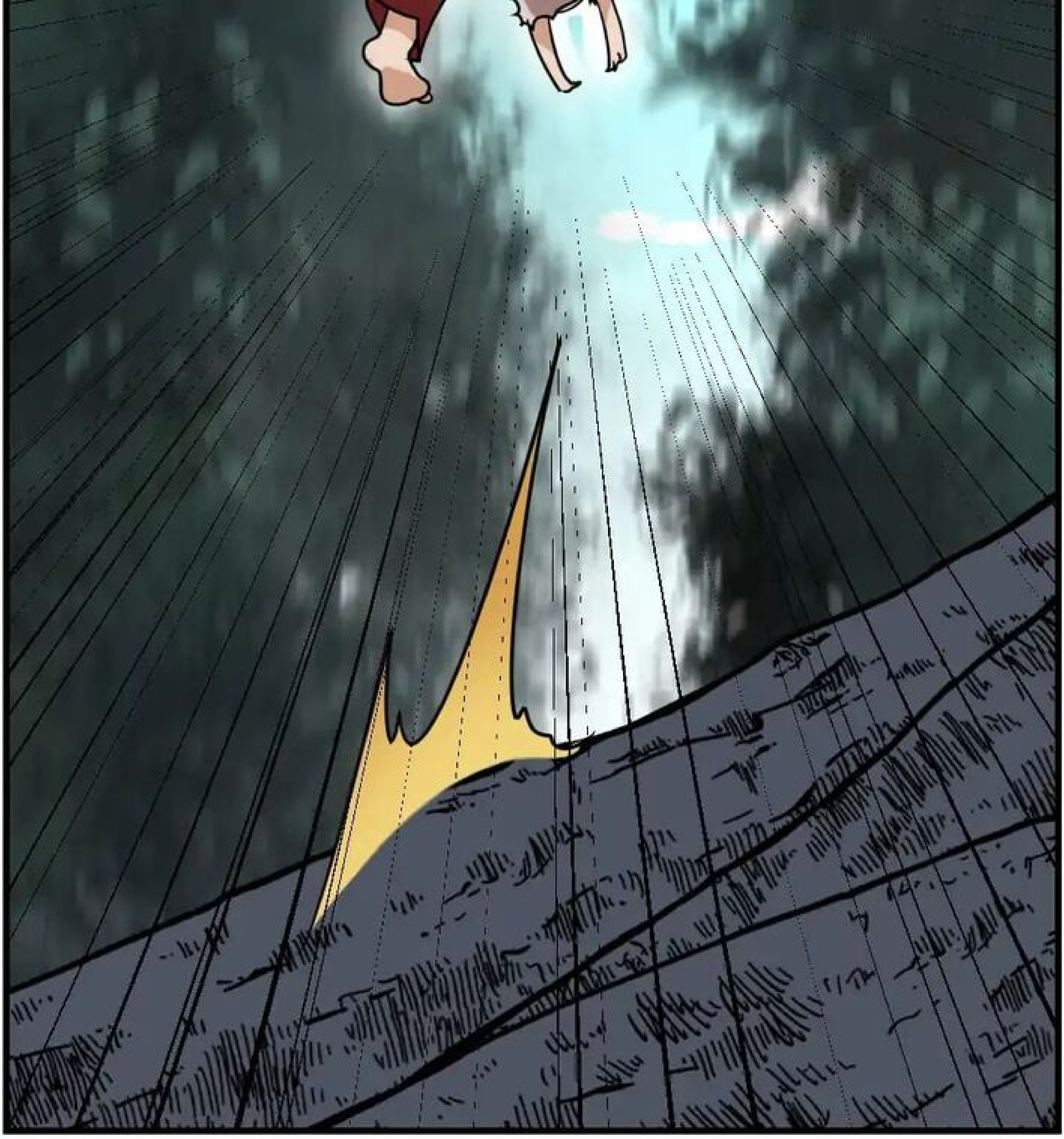

I'M GETTING PRETTY GOOD AT THIS TREE-TRAVELING BUSINESS.
POP

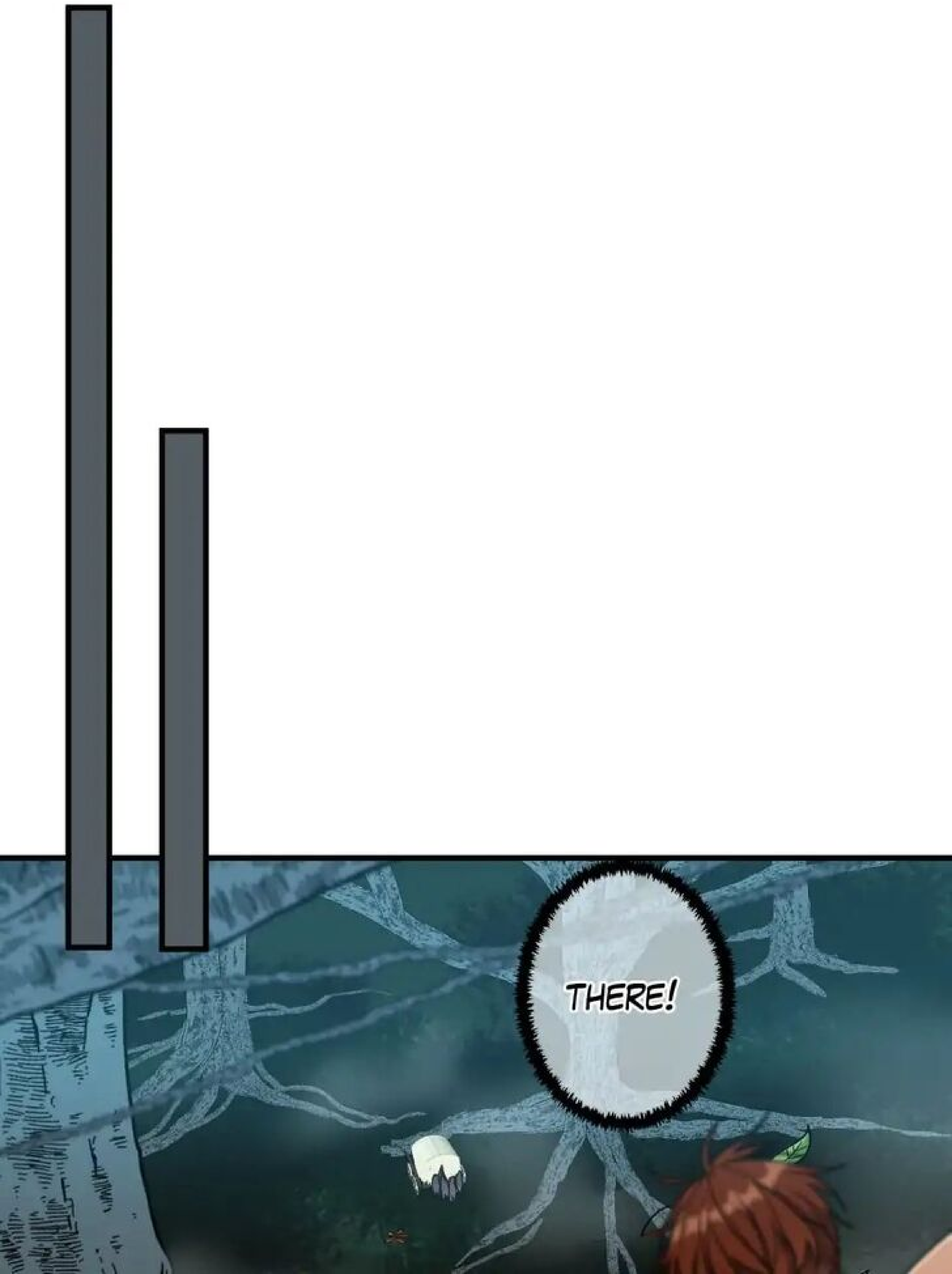

KYAAA!

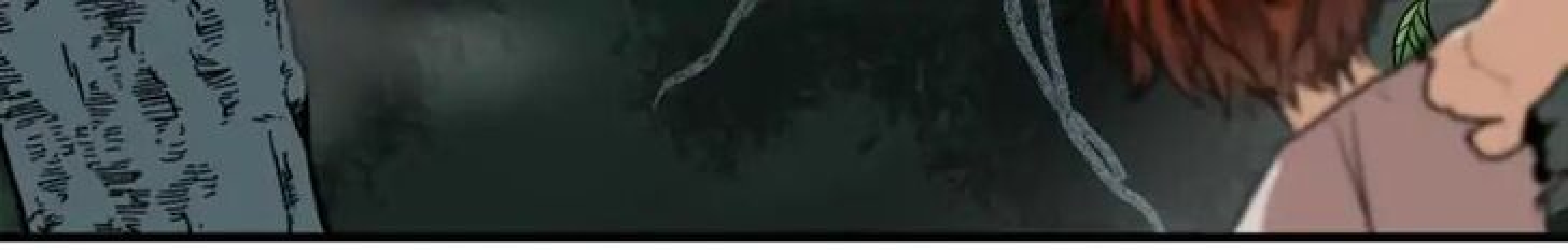

NGUK?!

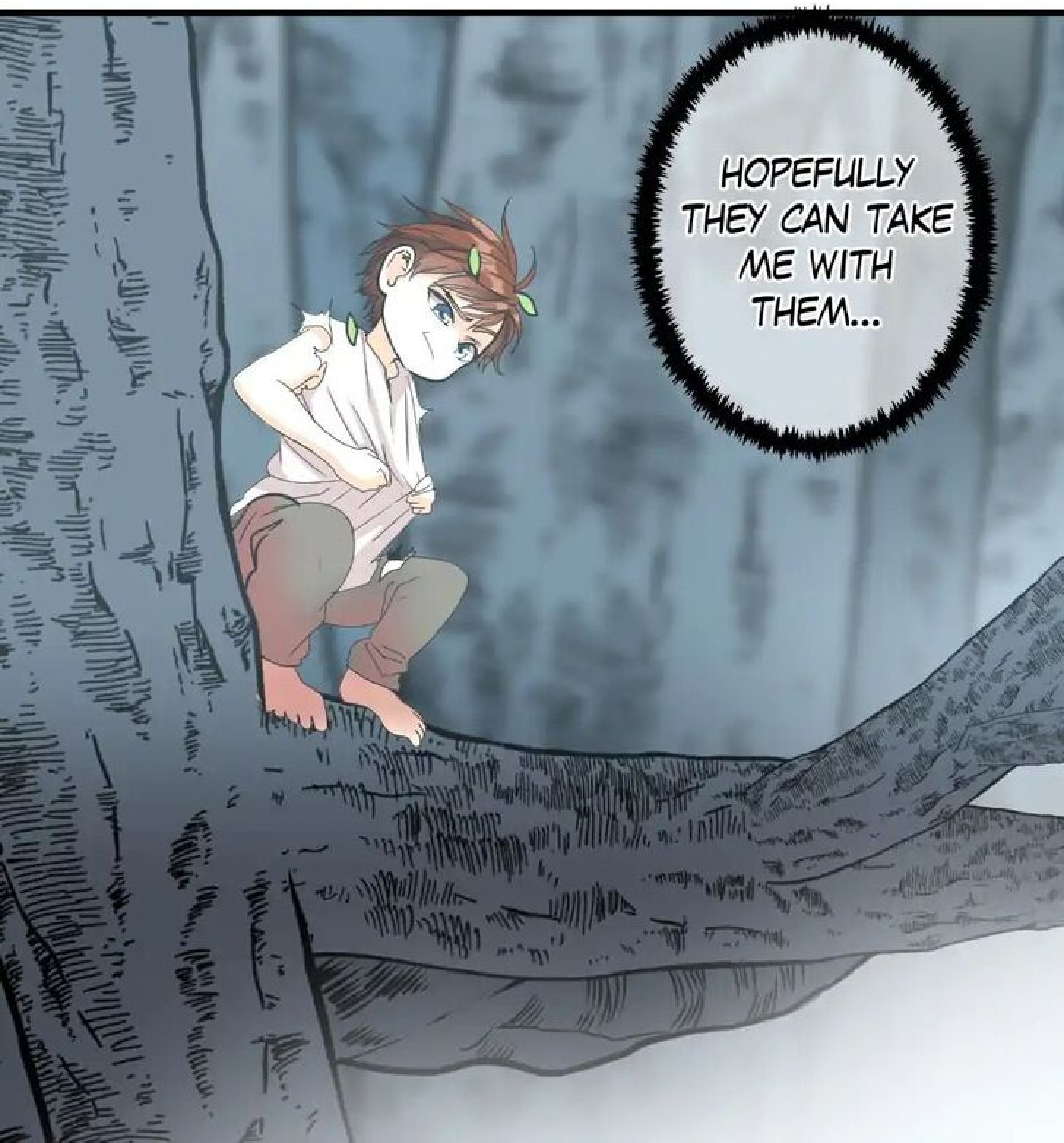

THAT SOUNDED LIKE A HUMAN!

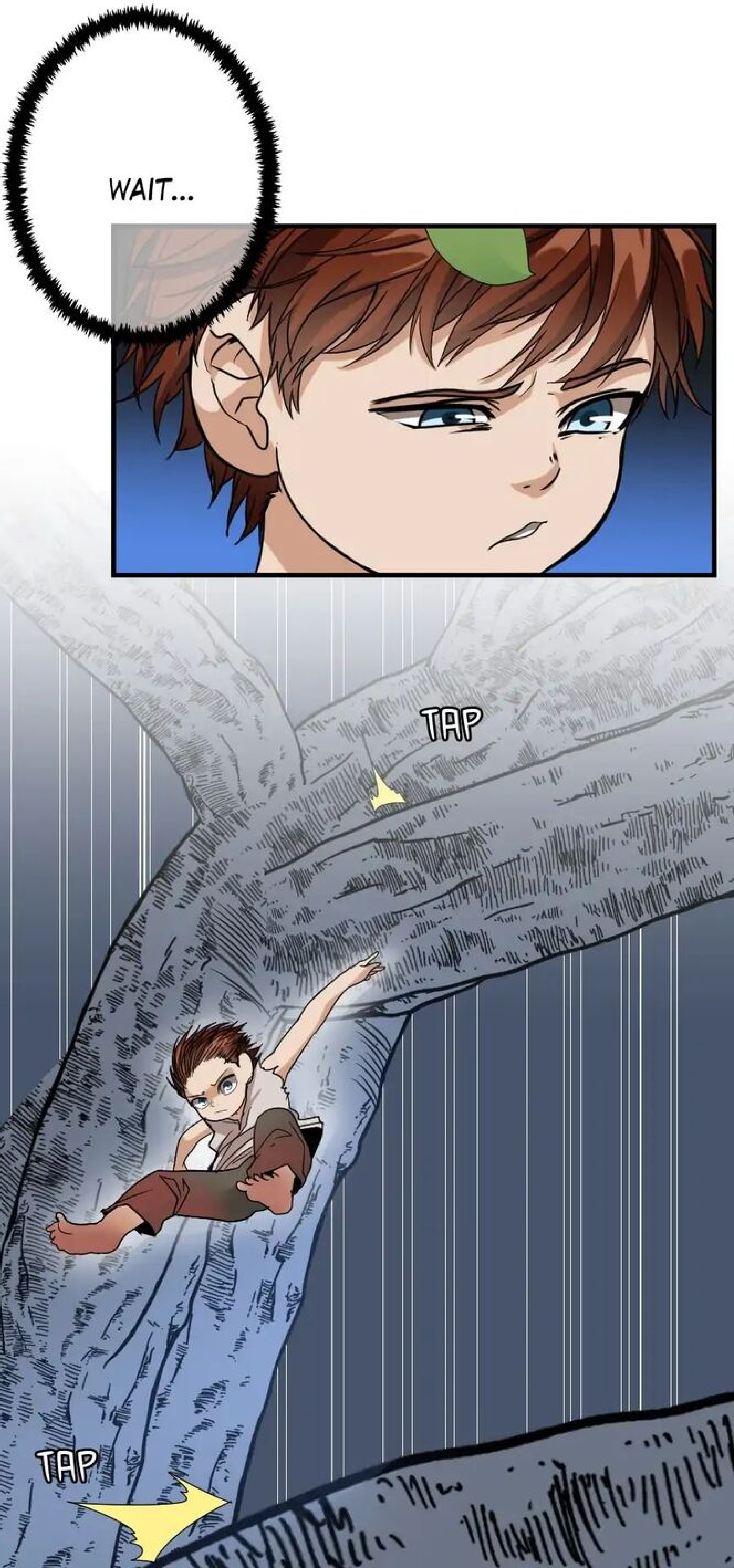

DASH

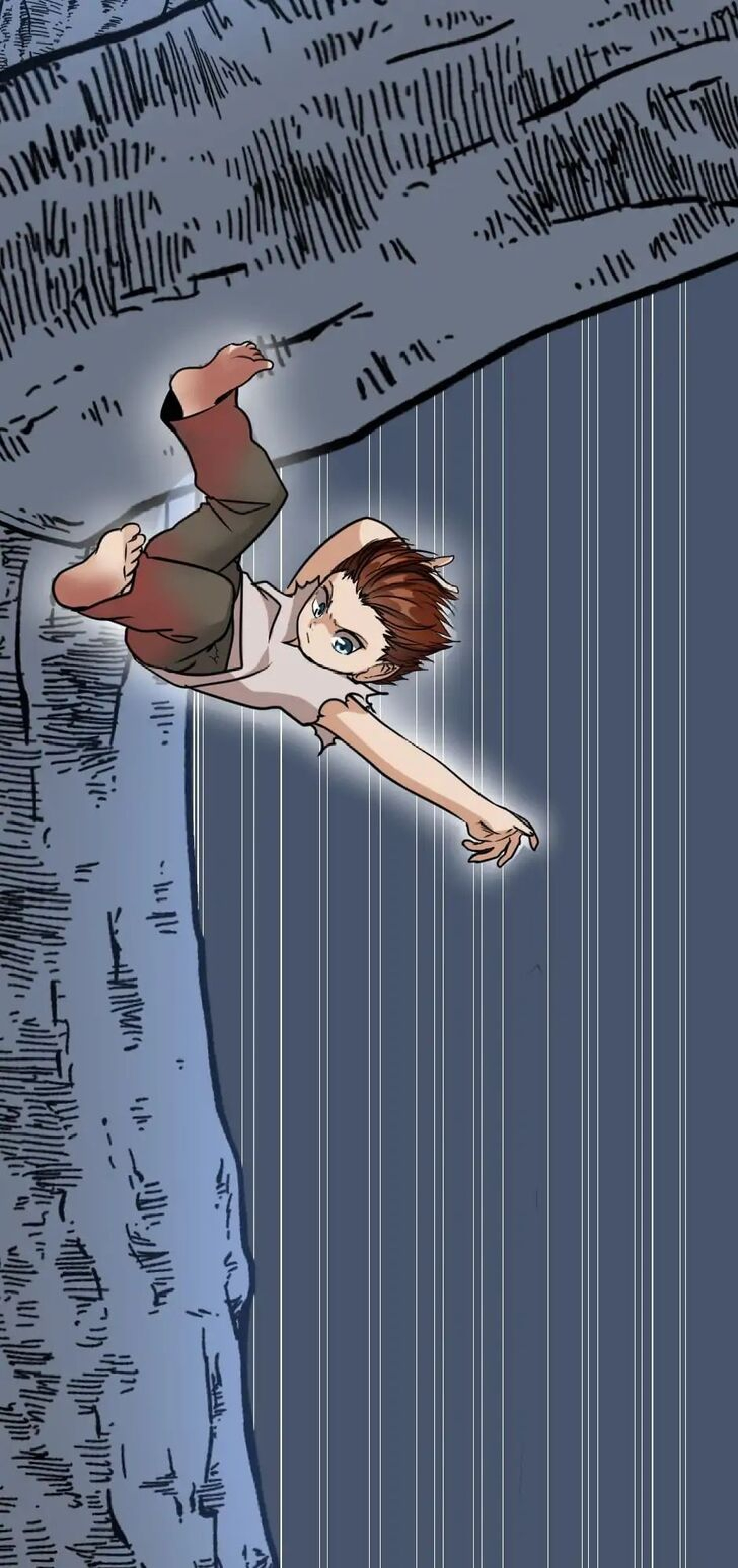


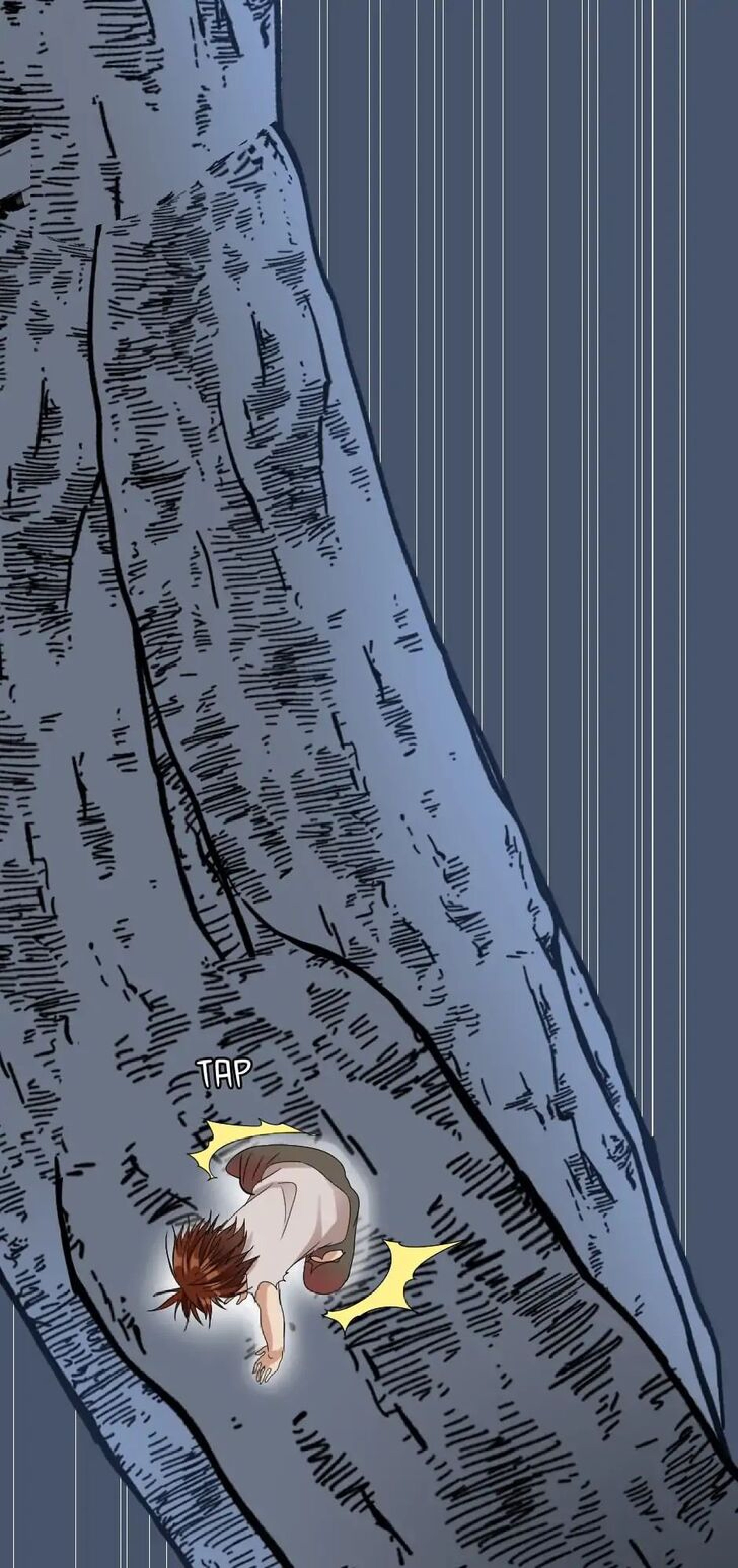

THERE!

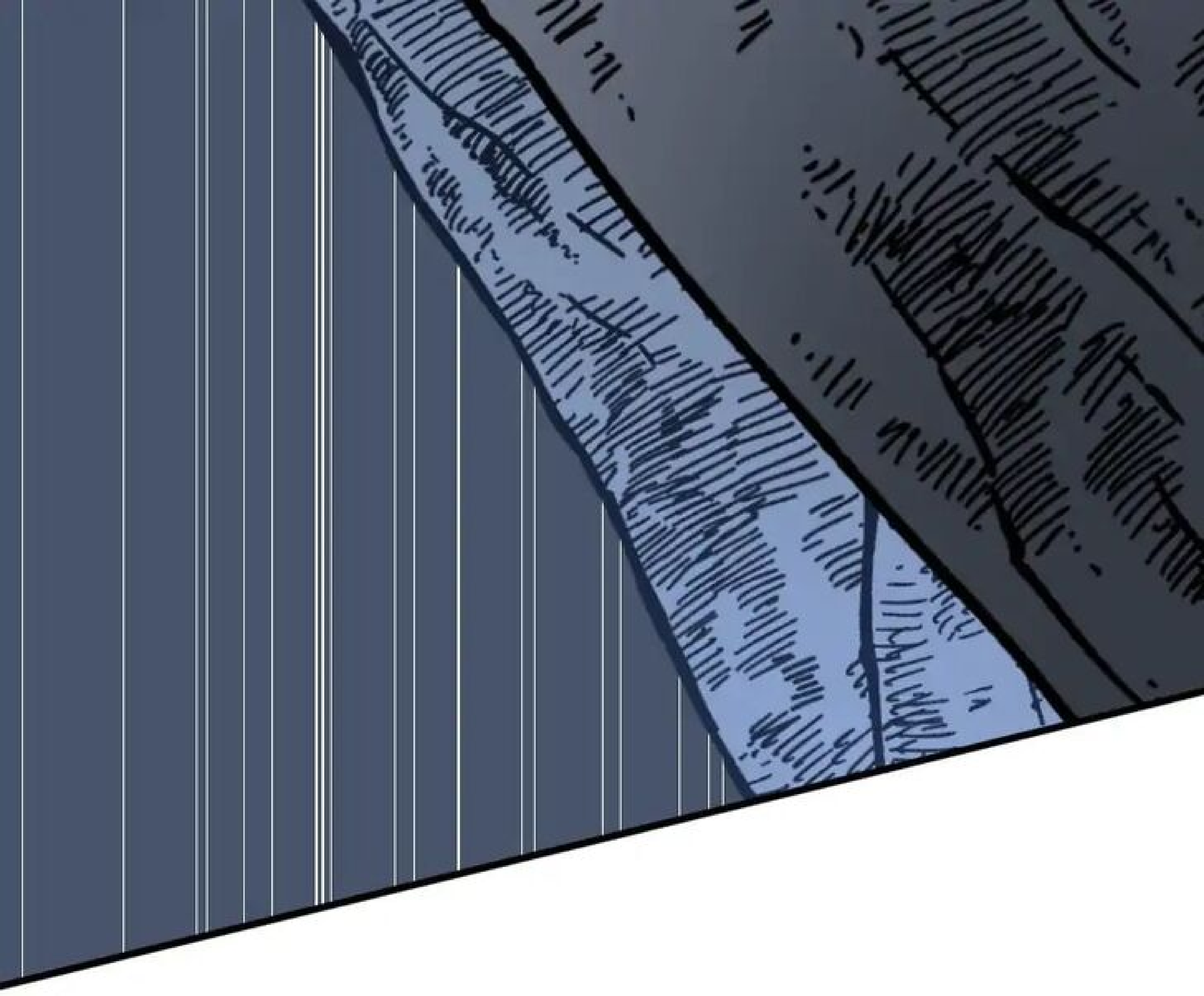


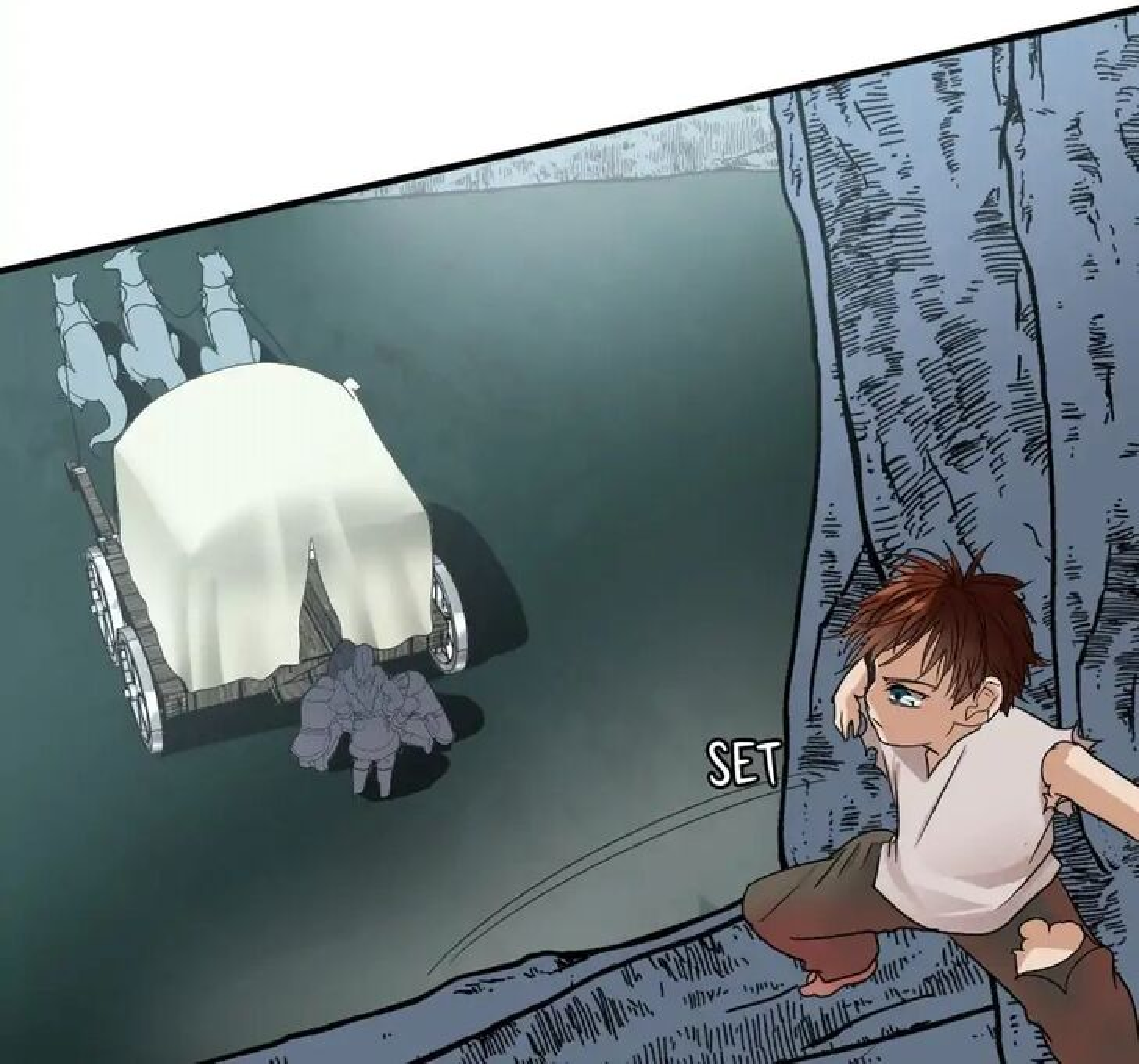

HOPEFULLY THEY CAN TAKE ME WITH THEM...

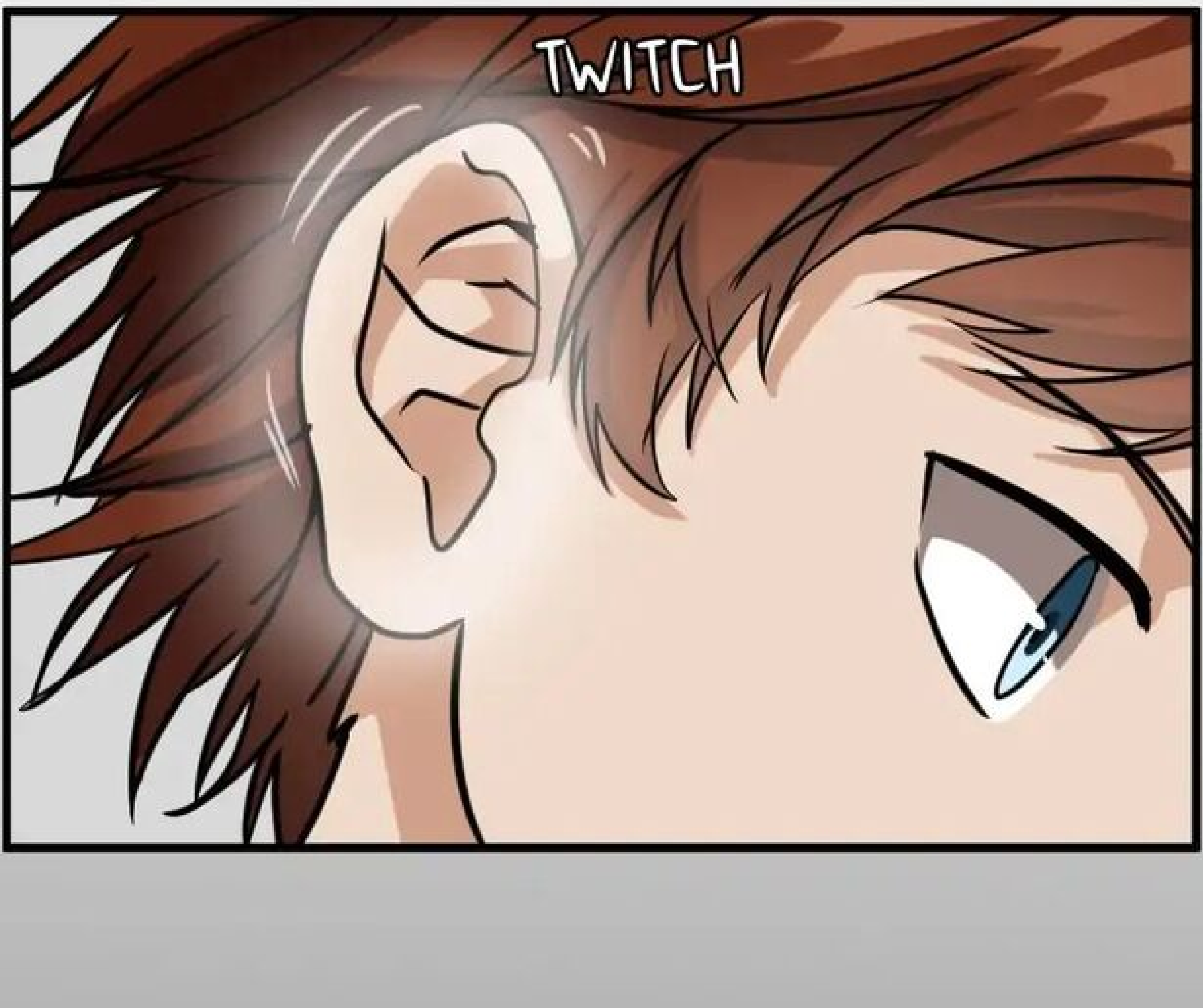

WAIT...
TAP
TAP




TAP

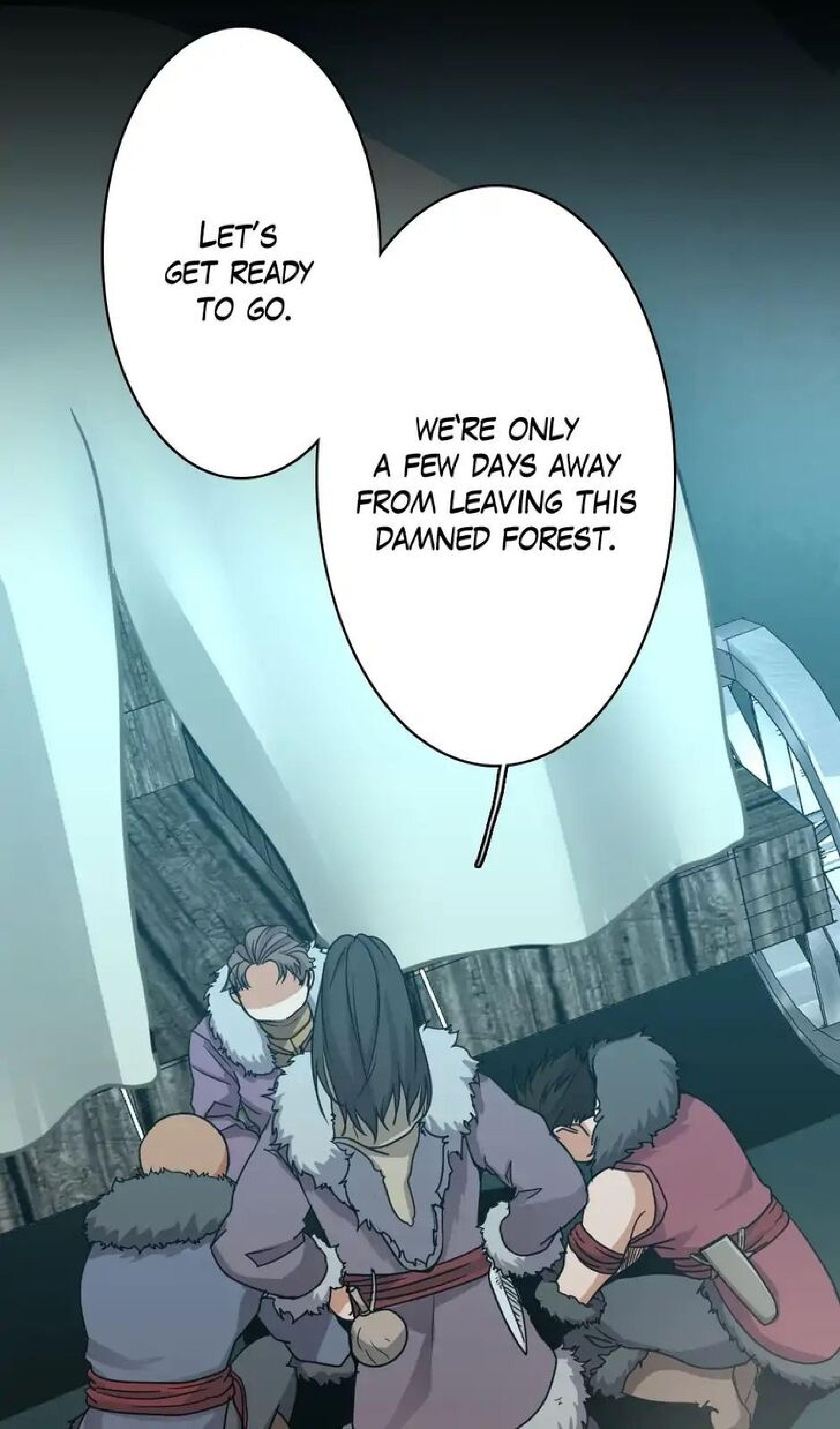


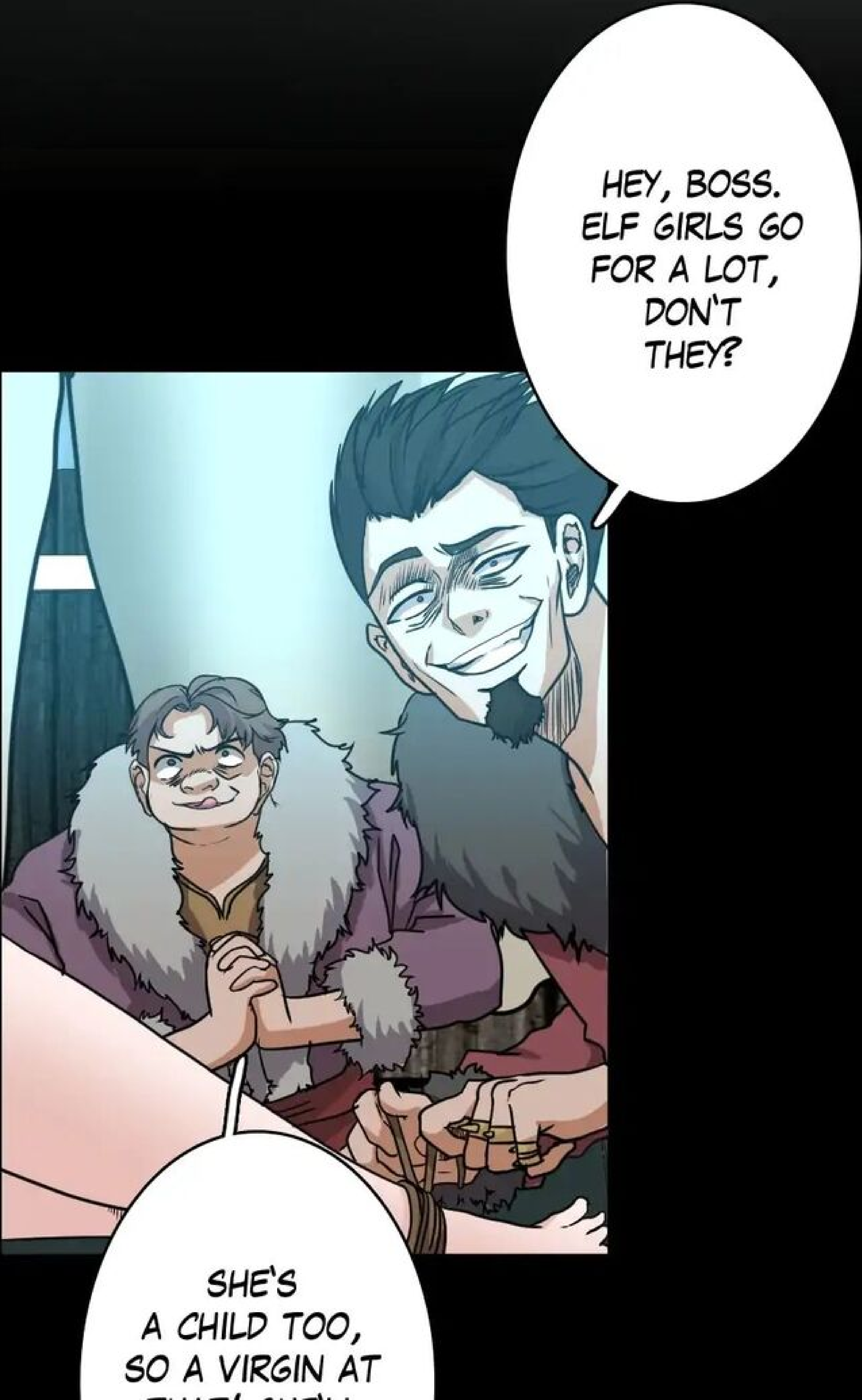

SET


TWITCH

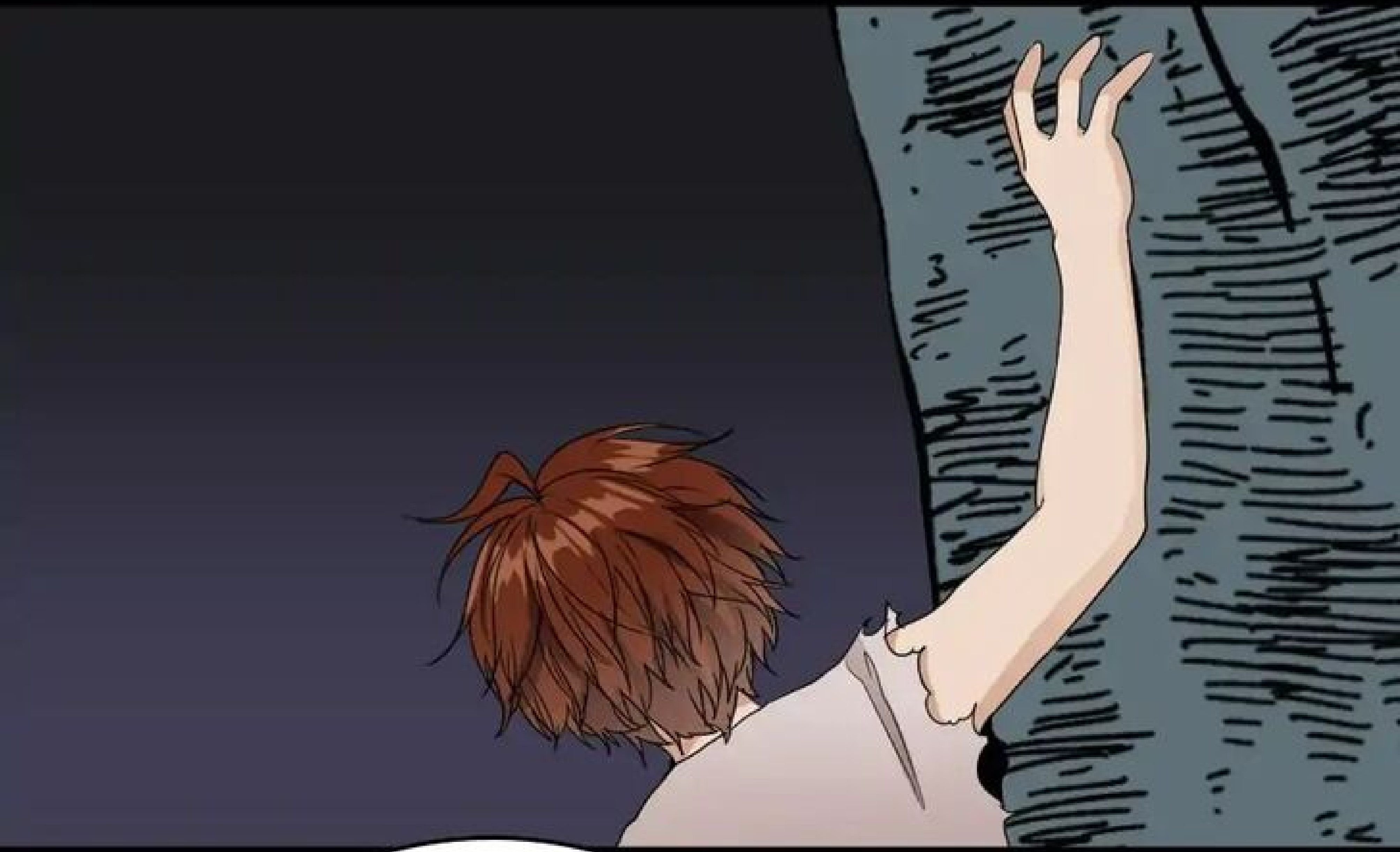
SOMEONE--M MPH MMMHHH!!!
SHUT HER UP!

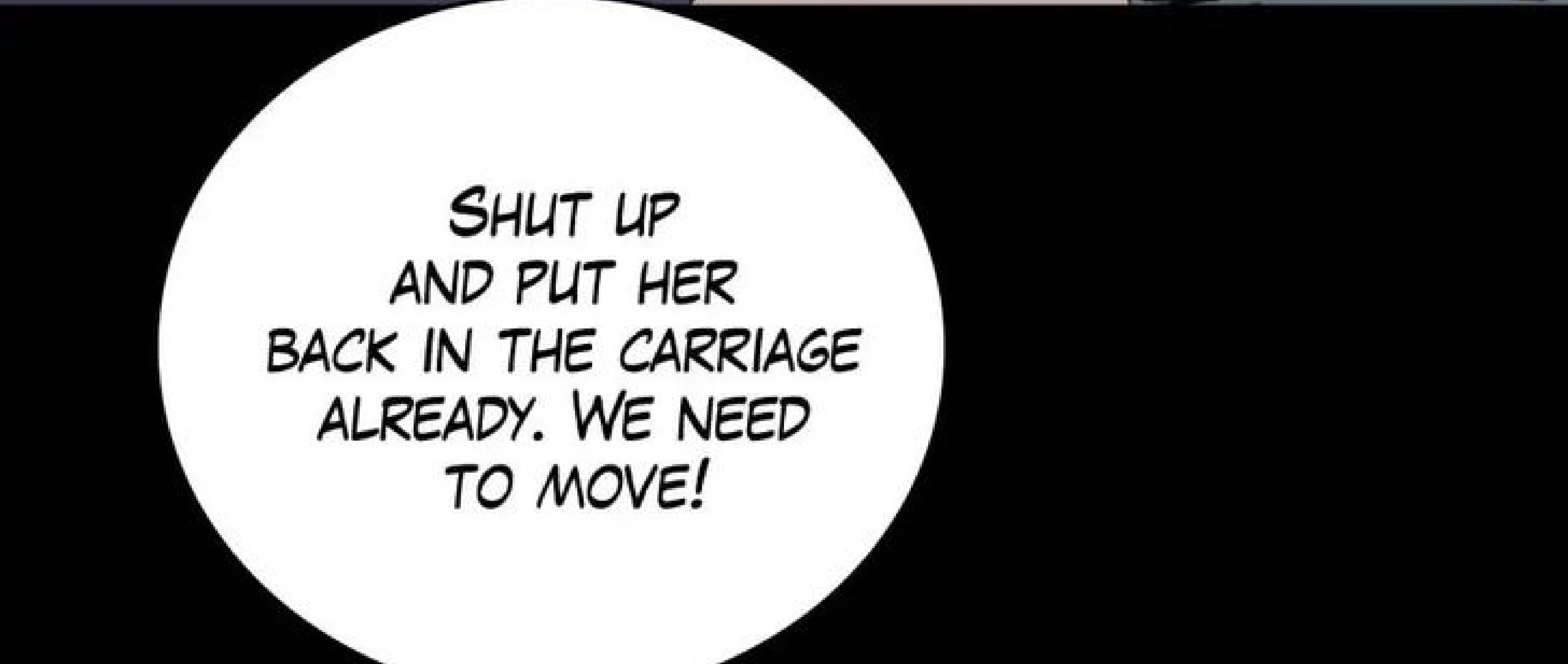
SMACK

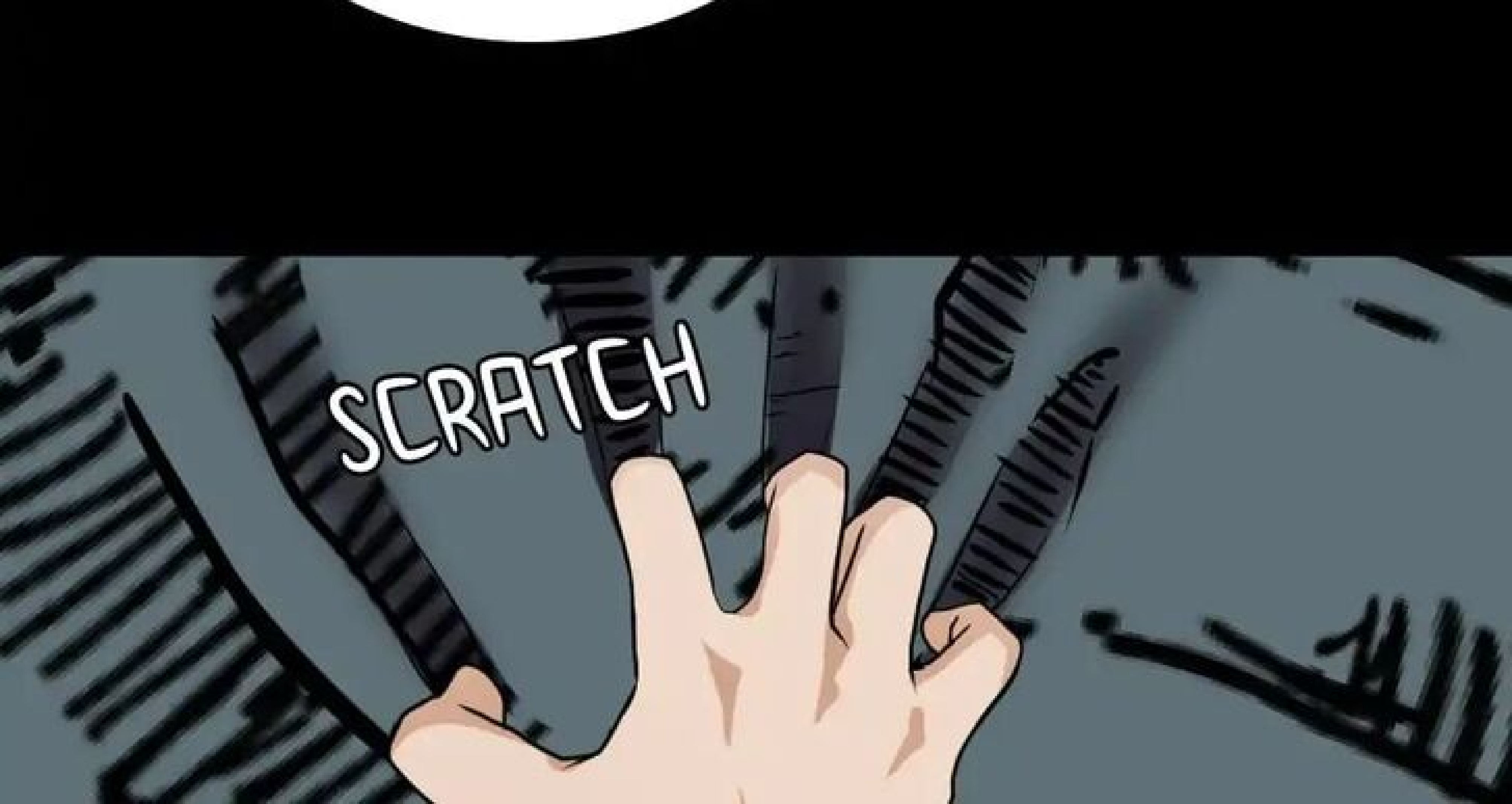

LET'S GET READY TO GO.
WE'RE ONLY A FEW DAYS AWAY FROM LEAVING THIS DAMNED FOREST.


HEY, BOSS. ELF GIRLS GO FOR A LOT, DON'T THEY?
SHE'S A CHILD TOO, SO A VIRGIN AT

THAT! SHE'LL DEFINITELY FETCH US A LOT!




SHUT UP AND PUT HER BACK IN THE CARRIAGE ALREADY. WE NEED TO MOVE!


SCRATCH

SLAVE TRADERS!